THE CAROLINA LEAGUE

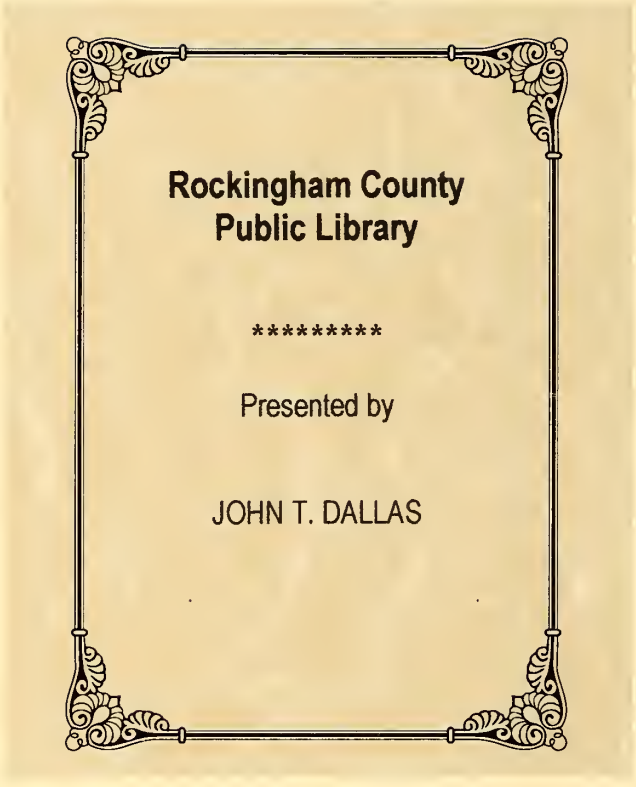
Gambling and Bribery

1948

Compiled By:
John T. Dallas
3929 Ribbon Grass Terrace
Greensboro
North Carolina
27405

R
NC
796.357
C

311


Rockingham County
Public Library

Presented by
JOHN T. DALLAS

The 1948 season in the Carolina League would have been remembered as the year before Leo "Muscle" Shoal had the tremendous year, 1949 with the bat in Kiker Stadium in Reidsville, but the year was remembered for the Bribery and "fixing" of a baseball game between the Reidsville Luckies and Winston Salem teams. The player-manager (pitcher) was the most likely one to control a game and he is the one that gamblers contacted.

Reidsville's year was expected to a good season in the league as they had two local men on their team. They were Lou Hester and Len McWhorther. Both would go on to have good years with Hester at winning 26 games and become the league's most valuable player. Dean Frye was another local boy on the team plus there was Bob Downing who was to marry a Reidsville girl. Barney DeForge as manager and pitcher was in great form with his pitching power until the Winston-Salem game.

But the Gambling and Bribery of the game caused much disorder in the league and some of the surrounding leagues in North Carolina and Virginia. Ed Weingarten who is alleged to have offers the bribes had an interest in the Florence, S.C. and Leaksville, N.C. clubs. His forfeiture of the his franchises to the league may have started some dealings that were not on the up and up and affected baseball when it was [illegible] at the top of its popularity in small town America,

This booklet contains many of the newspaper articles concerning the Bribery and other items of interest during the year in the Carolina League and surrounding Leagues from different newspapers.

If you have any information that you would like to share with the compiler on the year 1948 in Carolina League, please contact the compiler.

Compiled By:
John T. Dallas
3929 Ribbon Grass Terrace
Greensboro
North Carolina
27405

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
OUTREACH
MADISON
MAYODAN
EDEN
REIDSVILLE
STONEVILLE

10
14C
796.357
C

The Reidsville Review
14 January 1948
Local Boys To Train With Luckies

Two local boys will train with the Reidsville Luckies in Florence, S.C., business manag Phil Lundeen announced today. Guy McWhorter, pitcher and Marvin Elmo Shumate, outfielder will both join the team when the training season begins.

In the meantime, Lundeen has announced he will attend a business manager's meeti in Columbus, Ohio next week. Business managers from all over the nation will attend tl meeting, and Lundeen feels that he'll return to Reidsville with more good ballplayers.

Manager Barney DeForge is planning a trip to New York in search of ballplayers sometime next week. Lundeen has announced that some help could be expected from E Weingarten's Florence club.

DeForge and Lundeen both stated that they have already a good ball club on paper, b they are faced with the problem of "too many class men." The Class C Carolina League only allows six class men to be carried on a team.

Many of the best players on the Leaksville team last year will be on hand, while some of last year's Reidsville Luckies will be around when the season starts. On a 17-man squad in the Carolina League, only six class men are allowed. At least three rookies mu be carried with the rest of the squad to made up with limited service men. At present th Luckies rooster is carrying more than six class men. Some of these men will have to go

14 January 1948
Charter Issued Local Baseball Club

Raleigh, N.C. – Secretary of State Thad Eure today issued a certificate of incorporation a professional baseball club in Reidsville.

Baseball Inc was organized by P.H. Lundeen, Pat Brady and G.M. Lundeen of Reidsville.

The Reidsville Review
10 March 1948

Luckies Begin Spring Training On Monday

The Reidsville Luckies twenty strong, will report to Spring Training at Florence, South Carolina on Monday, business manager Phil Lundeen announced today. The Reidsville team will work out with the Florence team of the Tri-State League and the Leaksville Tripletts of the class D, Blue Ridge League.

Some 40 youngsters are already at the Florence baseball school and it is understood that some fine prospects will be discovered by the time the school ends. Lundeen reports that Reidsville skipper, Barney DeForge is doing a bang-up job with the handling of these youngsters.

The Reidsville team will begin its exhibition series while still in Florence, but will return home for a few exhibitions games just a few days prior to the beginning of the Carolina League season.

The Reidsville hurling staff is made up of four right-handers and two southpaws. Skipper Barney DeForge heads a fine mound staff composed of right-handers Ken Parks, Gene Goforth and Reidsville's own Leon McWhorter. Two ace lefthanders, Lou Hester and Tal Abernathy, complete the fine mound staff.

The catchers are available for duty, Tony Leone with the Tripletts last year, heads the staff. Also are available are John Dourney who caught with the Tripletts and Luckies last year and Eddie Dunn, a bright prospect.

Bob Mitchell, who held down first base for the Tripletts last year, will be on hand to play first base, Joe Trotta, an outstanding second baseman with Leaksville last year and Bill Collins will both be available to the Luckies this year.

At Shortstop the Luckies have Dean Frye, a Knoxville Smokiest last year and Jerry Haskins, a fine prospect from Jersey City.

Third baseman include Veo Story, who played with the Luckies and Tripletts last year and Paul Ellington who had previous experience in the Carolina Loop.

Outfielders include Bob Downing, Johnny Crutchfield and Eddie Neighbors.

22 March 1948

Florence, Mar 20 – The Florence Steelers of the class "B" Tri-State League were pressed to the limit in defeating the Reidsville Luckies 8 to 7, in ten innings here this afternoon in the first exhibition game of spring training. Reidsville took a 3-run lead in the second and then scored two in the sixth and seventh stanzas which looked like the ball game until with tow out in the ninth, a double and single knotted the score. The Steelers managed to push over a run in the first extra inning, with two out, to win.

Jim Burns, Richard Long, Ed Volan and Digeronimo were best at bat for the Steelers while Collins with an extra base hit

The Reidsville Review
10 March 1948

Luckies Begin Spring Training On Monday

The Reidsville Luckies twenty strong, will report to Spring Training at Florence, South Carolina on Monday, business manager Phil Lundeen announced today. The Reidsville team will work out with the Florence team of the Tri-State League and the Leaksville Tripletts of the class D, Blue Ridge League.

Some 40 youngsters are already at the Florence baseball school and it is understood that some fine prospects will be discovered by the time the school ends. Lundeen reports that Reidsville skipper, Barney DeForge is doing a bang-up job with the handling of these youngsters.

The Reidsville team will begin its exhibition series while still in Florence, but will return home for a few exhibitions games just a few days prior to the beginning of the Carolina League season.

The Reidsville hurling staff is made up of four right-handers and two southpaws. Skipper Barney DeForge heads a fine mound staff composed of right-handers Ken Parks, Gene Goforth and Reidsville's own Leon McWhorter. Two ace lefthanders, Lou Hester and Tal Abernathy, complete the fine mound staff.

The catchers are available for duty, Tony Leone with the Tripletts last year, heads the staff. Also are available are John Dourney who caught with the Tripletts and Luckies last year and Eddie Dunn, a bright prospect.

Bob Mitchell, who held down first base for the Tripletts last year, will be on hand to play first base, Joe Trotta, an outstanding second baseman with Leaksville last year and Bill Collins will both be available to the Luckies this year.

At Shortstop the Luckies have Dean Frye, a Knoxville Smokiest last year and Jerry Haskins, a fine prospect from Jersey City.

Third baseman include Veo Story, who played with the Luckies and Tripletts last year and Paul Ellington who had previous experience in the Carolina Loop.

Outfielders include Bob Downing, Johnny Crutchfield and Eddie Neighbors.

22 March 1948

Florence, Mar 20 – The Florence Steelers of the class "B" Tri-State League were pressed to the limit in defeating the Reidsville Luckies 8 to 7, in ten innings here this afternoon in the first exhibition game of spring training. Reidsville took a 3-run lead in the second and then scored two in the sixth and seventh stanzas which looked like the ball game until with tow out in the ninth, a double and single knotted the score. The Steelers managed to push over a run in the first extra inning, with two out, to win.

Jim Burns, Richard Long, Ed Volan and Digeronimo were best at bat for the Steelers while Collins with an extra base hit

Gentry: Well, how did you end up covering that story?

Garber: Well, all I did was just do that one story that day and then it went over to someone else, I didn't cover it all the way through. But we had another situation in baseball. When the Cardinals had a farm club here, a man came into the sports department one morning and said that the game the Cardinals had won the night before had been fixed. The Cardinals had been playing Reidsville. And the manager of the team was a man named Barney DeForge. And he said that Barney DeForge had thrown the game. Barney DeForge had gone in to pitch—and I have forgotten, anyway, it was late in the game when Reidsville was winning and Winston-Salem was starting to make a comeback. It was a logical move—the manager was a pitcher and it was a logical move for him to come in. But instead of being able to get the Winston-Salem players out, Barney was wilder than the pitchers that had been in there and he walked a lot of players and gave up some hits and Reidsville lost the game and Winston-Salem won. I was there and I didn't see anything wrong, it happens all the time, a pitcher can't get the ball over the plate and the hitters hit it.

But the man was right and Barney had been approached by gamblers and he had agreed to throw the game and he had done it. And one of the sad things about it was that the police officer who was assigned to the case was a very good friend of Barney's and they had been together in the service and played ball together in the service and the officer said it was one of the hardest things he had to do, go arrest a friend for something like that. But Barney was brought to trial and he was, of course, thrown out of baseball forever. And the man who Barney said was the one who had approached him of course denied it and it couldn't be proved in court. They had to dismiss the case. But there was never any question in my mind that Barney was telling the truth. That was a very sad situation, too.

Washington Press Club Foundation 30 August 1990
Diane K. Gentry interviewing Mary Garber (long time sports reporter at the W-S Journal)

The Reidsville Review

25 Mar 1948

Steelers Win Another From Luckies, 6-4

The Steelers won a 6 to 4 exhibition game here today from the Reidsville Luckies of the Class C Carolina League.

The local club members of the Class B Tri-State League coasted behind the scattered six hit of Walt Dixon, Nate Anderson and Jack Clifton. The Luckies did not secure more than one hit in any one inning and tallied once in the eighth and three times in the ninth. Meanwhile the Steelers plated two runs in the second, one in the third, another in the sixth and two in the eighth.

A batting star of the day was Rudy Tanner, Steeler left fielder, who rapped out three long doubles in four official at bats. No other local player had more than one hit but Ed Volans went for three bases.

John Crutchfield, Reidsville third sacker, had three singles out of five tries and Bob Downing rapped a double and single for five at bats. (Lou Hester started the game was relieved by Barney DeForge.)

31 March 1948

The Reidsville Luckies will arrive in Reidsville tonight, Phil Lundeen announced yesterday afternoon just before leaving for Florence. The Reidsville nine will play the Charlotte Hornets in Charlotte this afternoon. They will begin workouts in Kiker Stadium tomorrow and will play their first home exhibition game Saturday afternoon. The Fayetteville Cubs of the Tri-State League will be the opponent.

The Luckies who figure to have one of the Carolina League's best mound staffs will have to get along without the services of at least one of the infielders they had counted on. Veo Story has decided to remain with the Chatham Mills in Elkin and Joe Trotta is still unsigned and has not joined the team. However, business manager Lundeen claims that good replacements are on hand and Manager Barney DeForge will field a pennant contender for Reidsville.

The Reidsville Review
2 April 1948
Luckies Play Fayetteville Cubs At Kiker Tomorrow
New Shortstop Is Purchased

He Reidsville Luckies will play their home game of the season tomorrow afternoon when they meet the Fayetteville Cubs of the Tri-State League at Kiker Stadium. The game will beat 3 p.m.

The Reidsville nine will include many new faces and quite a few old familiar faces. Lew Hester, Ken Price and John Downey wore Lucky uniforms last year while pitcher Gene Goforth and second baseman Dean Frye are both familiar figures to Kiker Stadium. Goforth appearing with Rock Hill Chiefs and Frye with Knoxville Smokies. Outfielder Johnny Crutchfield also saw some action with the Luckies last year.

The Luckies, potentially a fine Carolina League entry, have on paper one of the loop's better mound staffs. Manager Barney DeForge is an experienced minor league pitcher. He has a short spell as a major leaguer with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but spent most of his time in AAA ball. Ken Price, the old reliable, who was the ace of the Reidsville mound staff last year, is on hand and Gene Goforth, tall right hander, saw action in both the Carolina and Tri-State loops last year. Lewis Hester also hurled some mighty fine games in both these leagues last year, while Tal Abernathy was the ace of the Leaksville Trips during the 1947 season.

John Dourney and Tony Leone give the Luckies strength behind the plate while the infield and outfield remain questionable and are by no means settled as yet, although some fine prospects are on hand.

Manager Barney DeForge reports the team is rounding out and a new shortstop has been purchased to add strength to the infield. Phil Lundeen announced today the purchase of Fred Musumeci, class shortstop from Wilmington of the Tobacco State League. Musumeci is not a big boy, but he is a fair hitter and a classy hitter and a classy fielder with plenty of speed.

The Fayetteville Cubs, opponents for the Luckies tomorrow are skippered by Jack Salai for many years with the New York Giants. Several of last year's Fayetteville team, familiar to the Reidsville fans, are in the Fayetteville lineup this year.

Sunday the Luckies will go to Winston Salem to play the Hanes team, Monday night the Charlotte Hornets are supposed to play here but as yet this date is not definite.

The Reidsville Review

9 Apr 1948

Hanes Here Tonight; Trips Here Saturday; Hi-Toms Here Monday

The Reidsville Luckies will continue their exhibition schedule at Kiker Stadium tonight when they meet the Hane Hosiery team of Winston-Salem. Last week the Luckies played the Hanes team in their own backyard and came home with a hard-earned 9-8 victory in an extra inning contest. Hester who was slated to pitch the rained out Leaksville game Thursday night will probably start on the mound for the game tonight. The game starts at 8 o'clock.

Tomorrow night (Saturday) the Leaksville Tripletts skippered by Bernie Loman will invade Kiker Stadium for a game. The game will begin at 8 p.m. Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the Luckies will play the Leaksville Triplett at Tri-Cities ball park on the Leaksville-Draper road.

On Monday night the Reidsville fans will have a real treat. The High Point-Thomasville Hi-Toms will invade Kiker Stadium for a game. The Hi-Toms long a power in the class D, North Carolina State Loop are skippered by Jimmy Gritz, the former manager of the Class D Bi-State Reidsville Luckies. Gritz later led the minors in hitting with a batting average above .400. He was very poplar in Reidsville, one of the best second sackers ever to perform in the old Bi-State.

Phil Lundeen announced today that he had reached an agreement with H.P. Dawson, New York Yankee scout. The agreement calls for a player from the Norfolk Tars in exchange for purchase rights on any of the Reidsville players at the end of the season.

12 April 1948

The Reidsville Luckies continued their winning ways over the weekend by trouncing the Hanes Hosiery Team in Kiker Stadium last night by the tune of 20-5. Saturday night Lew Hester barely missed a no-hitter as the Luckies defeated the Leaksville Tripletts 5-0. Sunday afternoon's scheduled game with Leaksville was rained out. It would have been played in Leaksville.

The Reidsville Luckies bats boomed against the Hanes Hosiery team in Kiker Stadium Friday night as they made 30 hits count for 20 runs before a small, shivering crowd in a game called after seven innings of play because of cold weather. Hanes used four pitchers in an effort to stem the Reidsville attack, but when it was all over, the Luckies were on top 20-5.

Goforth went the route for the Luckies, having things pretty much his own way except for the third inning when he was banged for four hits and four runs. However, at the same time the tall right-hander had a comfortable twelve-run lead. The Luckies scored four runs in the final frame, added eight in the second and added four more in each of the third and fifth innings.

Hanes added their fifth marker in the seventh inning when Williams, pinch hitting for Motsinger, doubled to center. He was brought in by Hayes single.

You have to get by that final inning before you can claim a no-hit performance. Lewis Hester, ace Reidsville southpaw, found that out Saturday night after holding the Leaksville Triplets hitless in eight innings and allowed only one more base on balls.

In the top half of the ninth the five hundred fans kept their seats although the Luckies held a 5-0 lead which looked safe enough but no one is going to walk out on what looked like a sure fire no-hitter.

"Shug" Hundley, who had done a pretty fair mound job, himself, was suppose to be the first man to face Hester in that all important inning. But Bernie Loman, Triplet manager stepped up to the plate as a pinch hitter. Loman, probably the best hitter on the Leaksville team had the fans plenty worried for they knew all to well that Mr. Loman could very well spoil Mr. Hester's no-hitter.

On he first pitch Loman lined a foul over toward right field bleachers. On the next pitch he drove a grounder to third baseman Zarad who threw to Mitchell at first for the putout. The pressure was off. The fans were sure Hester would get his no-hitter.

Then Long, Triplet shortstop, who out of three previous trips to the plate had been one of the few triplets to reach first base at all, landed that on a fielders choice in the sixth, stepped up to the plate. A right handed batter, Long hit a deep fly to right field, just a few feet inside the foul line' It went for a double and Hester's no-hitter had been spoiled. Then Rogers walked and Hester fanned his tenth and eleventh men to retire the side for a one-hit shutout victory.

Hundley, Leaksville hurler had four hitless innings to his credit The Luckies failed to get a hit off the Leaksville moundsman after the fourth inning. Mitchell and Hester hit doubles for Reidsville

The Luckies started the scoring in the first frame with one run. They added two runs in the third and two more in the fourth to complete the scoring for the evening

14 Apr 1948

Luckies Win 11-2; Eagles Here Tonight: Bluefield Thursday

The Reidsville Luckies pounded three Owensboro hurlers for ten hits in Kiker Stadium last night and won a 11-2 victory over their Class D rivals from Kentucky. Tal Abernathy fanned ten men in the six innings he pitched, permitting single runs to come across the plate only in the second and third innings. From then on it was shutout ball for Abernathy and Skipper DeForge ho took the mound in the seventh inning.

The Luckies made three hits count for three runs. They pushed across two more in the third, one in the fourth, one in the sixth and four in the eighth to complete the scoring.

Crutchfield, with three for five and Mitchell with two for five, led the Luckies at the plate. Musin, with two for five led the losers.

Tonight the Luckies will play McCrary Eagles of Asheboro, at Kiker Stadium. Tomorrow night the Luckies will play host to Bluefield, West Virginia of the Appalachian League.

The Reidsville Review
10 Apr 1948

Bees Here Tonight
De Forge Hits 4-Run Homer
Abernathy Hurls Well

The Reidsville Luckies behind the eight-hit pitching of Tal Abernathy defeated the Raleigh Capitals Sunday afternoon, 15-2.

Managers Barney DeForge's grand slam homer in the sixth inning turned a 1-1 tie into a route. Caps hurler Al Hernandez was chased from the mound after that, and the Luckies followed all of that with a ten-run outburst in the eighth.

DeForge shifted his lineup a bit, sending Frye to Centerfield and played first base himself, with Trotta moved down to second base. The Luckies touched four Raleigh hurlers for 13 hits as they pulled a reversal of Saturday night's game.

Johnny Wilson, newly acquired right fielder, continued to hit the ball, getting two for six. Saturday night Wilson got three hits out of three trips to the plate.

Saturday night, Gene Goforth in his last performance before going into voluntary retirement, was struck by a batted ball and had to leave the game. This started a Raleigh onslaught that ended in a 13-1 victory for the visitors.

Bill Nagel fattened his batting average, getting two homers, a double and a single out of five trips to the place.

Danville pitching was a little too much for the Reidsville Luckies Friday night as the Leafs came up with two five-hit pitching jobs to win a double-header in Danville's League Park. Paul Willis pitched the first Danville win, defeating the Luckies and Red Gardner, 4-1. In the second game it was Fred Peeler on the mound and he defeated the Luckies and Marcello Fernandez 5-2.

In the first game three of Danville's four runs were homeruns by Fair, Latshaw and Sullivan, all driving the ball out of the lot. Latshaw's homer came with Droat on base.

Reidsville scored in the first inning, but from then on they were unable to bunch enough hits on Willis to push across another score.

Marcello Fernandez retired the first nine men to face him in the second game, but two doubles in the fifth accounted for a run. They jumped on the Reidsville fireball artist for homeruns in the sixth and added another in the seventh to put the game on ice. The Luckies pushed across both their runs in the seventh. Frye singled and was driven home by Downing's triple. Downing was driven in by Dunne's infield grounder.

The Reidsville Review

17 April 1948

McWhorter Wins For Luckies

Reidsville own Leon McWhorter went the Route for the Reidsville Luckies and pitched six-hit ball to gain a 10-4 victory over the Leaksville Triplets of the Class D Blue Ridge league at Leaksville last night. McWhorter ran into a little trouble in the first inning when the Trips combined three hits and a walk for two runs but he had smooth sailing through the seventh inning only to allow two more Leaksville runs in the eighth.

In the meantime the Luckies pounded the two Trip hurlers for twelve hits and ten runs, Musumeci leading the attack with four hits out of five times at bat. Arkallan, new Lucky outfielder, got a double and triple to lead the Luckies in extra base blows.

The Triplets broke the ice with two runs in the first, but failed to push across another marker until the eighth. The Luckies held scoreless for the first two innings scored two runs in each of the third, fourth and fifth innings, added one in the sixth and three in the eighth.

The Luckies failed to score in the first half of the ninth. The game was rained out after Prillman, pinch hitting for Roberson singled and Long walked.

Tonight the Luckies will entertain the Leaksville team at Kiker Stadium. The game will begin at 8 p.m.

23 April 1948

2,000 Fans See DeForge

Danville Here Again Tonight

Manager Barney DeForge hurled the Reidsville Luckies to a 3-2 victory over the Danville Leafs here last night before 2,000 chilled spectators in Kiker Stadium. The Reidsville skipper had a shutout until the ninth inning when a run scored after there were two out.

It was a well played game, considering the thermometer had dropped near the high thirties and the Luckies blasted the Leaf hurler Fred Peeler for twelve hits. DeForge pitched four-hit ball until the ninth when he gave up his first base on balls and two more hits.

The Luckies scored their first run in the third inning on consecutive doubles by Muscumeci and Crutchfield. Both hits were driven into left field.

The Luckies scored again in the fourth inning, Downing singled to left field, but later was put out at second on an attempted steal. Trotta then singled to left field. Arkelian drew a base on balls, moving Trotta to second. Mitchell followed with a fly to center for the second put out of the inning Then catcher Tony Leone singled to drive in Trotta.

In the sixth inning the Luckies Mitchell, then Latshaw hit a liner and a Danville error for the last run of the game. The Danville rally in the ninth fell one run short, Stevens batting for Peeler, drew a base on balls. Lukherdt then grounded to Trotta, forcing Stevens, Trotta to Frye. Tepedino grounded out, Frye to Mitchell. Then Lattshay hit a line drive to center for a double, driving in Lukeherdt . Fair then singled to drive in Latshaw. That was all from the Leafs, however, for Petty hit an outfield fly to Bob Downing for the putout.

DeForge's pitching was the big item in last night's game, but special attention is due Bob Mitchell for his defensive play at first base. (DeForge had 4 strikeouts and 1 base on balls).

Tonight Danville will end the present series with the Luckies in Kiker Stadium, Saturday and Sunday the Luckies will play Raleigh there, while on Monday and Tuesday the Durham Bulls will be here for games.

29 April 1948

Stage Rally To Overcome Deficit
Cardinals Here Friday

Dean Frye, Reidsville second baseman, doubled in the sixth inning with the bases loaded and the Reidsville Luckies defeated the Burlington Bees, 8-4 in a game played seven innings by agreement. The second game of the scheduled double header was called because of rain and cold weather.

The Bees hopped on Skipper Barney DeForge for four runs in the second frame. He was replaced by Tal Abernathy in the fourth, Abernathy who had trouble with the Durham Bulls the night before, gave up only one hit and pitched shutout ball for the last four innings.

Mitchell and Abernathy each had a perfect day at the plate, getting two hits out of two official times at bat. Abernathy hit a triple and batted in two runs to help with his own ball games.

Tonight the Luckies will play Burlington again. Tomorrow the lads will return home to begin a two-game home stand against the league-leading Winston-Salem Cardinals.

The Reidsville Review
5 May 1948

Drop Two To Winston-Salem
Back Home Wednesday

The Reidsville Luckies, unable to break the Winston-Salem Cardinals winning streak were successful in extending the Patriots losing streak yesterday afternoon and went on to win 6-5.

Fireman Red Gardner did just as he had done a Sunday ago in Raleigh. This time he relieved Skipper Barney DeForge after the Patriots had scored two runs in the eighth to come within one run of thing the score. He held the Patriots scoreless the 1 2/3 innings he pitched. Home runs helped the Luckies cause no little. In the second frame 'Arky" Arkellina drove one over the right field wall with none on. In the third inning Frye hit a 380-foot homer over the left field wall to score Mitchell ahead of him.

DeForge had the Patriots handcuffed most of the way, but an error started a Greensboro rally in the fourth that scored three runs. In the eighth DeForge called the redhead to relieve him after the Patriots had scored two runs with one out.

Arkellina with two for three and Frye with two for four led the Luckies at the plate. Roscoe Taylor, with three for four, led the losers.

The same teams play at Memorial Stadium in Greensboro tonight at 8 p.m. Tuesday night the Luckies will play in Martinsville. The game will be played away because of the May Day exercises. Wednesday night the Luckies will return home to play the red-hot Martinsville Athletics in Kiker Stadium.

Winston Salem's league leading Cardinals made five errors Friday night and the Reidsville Luckies made four, but the Luckies four miscues were by far the most damaging and the Cardinals extended their win streak to six games as they defeated the Reidsville aggregation 6-4.

It was the first of a two game series played at Kiker Stadium and the Luckies began giving away runs in the first frame. Blackwell led off with a triple, and later scored on a wild pitch.

The Luckies came back to score two runs in the bottom half of the inning, but the Cardinals added a run in each the second and third frames to take a 3-2 lead. The Luckies came back in the bottom half of the fourth, however, to score again and make the score 5-all.

The Birds clinched the game in the sixth by scoring two runs to break the deadlock. Chuck Williams and Marty Zablish rifled out singles and the former scored as Harry Sernia laced a one-base hit to center. Zablish tallied when the relay from right field got away from the second baseman.

Hester appeared to be in fine form, fanning eight Cardinal batmens along the route, but his own miscues contributed to his defeat. On one occasion he fielded a ground ball, threw wild to first and the runner came all the way home on the error.

Bender "Wilmer Vinegar Bend" pitched well for the Cardinals, but the Cardinal errors were almost too much for him. However, three of the four Luckie four runs were batted in, while only two of the Cardinals six runs were batted in, the other four being Reidsville donations.

The Reidsville Review
17 May 1948

Luckies Beat Pats, Split With Cards
Downing, Trotta Hit Homers

The Reidsville Luckies won two out of three games in Winston-Salem this weekend. After getting off to a bad start Friday night in their first of their two game series with the Winston-Salem Cardinals. The defeated the Cards 10-7 Saturday night behind the slants of Lew Hester and Ed Holte. Dean Fry, Reidsville second baseman, contributed to Reidsville's 10-7 victory on Friday night. Yesterday afternoon the Luckies defeated the Greensboro Patriots in Winston-Salem's Southside Park to the tune of 7-4 with Red Gardner on the mound.

Home runs figured in the two Reidsville wins with Bob Downing clouting a three run homer Saturday night to clutch the Reidsville victory and Joe Trotta connecting for a four bagger in the Greensboro game yesterday to give the Luckies a lead in the first inning.

Abernathy and Frisinger hooked up in a mound duel in Winston-Salem Friday night and Frisinger allowed only two hits in blanking the Luckies 5-0. Abernathy gave up seven hits in the seven innings he pitched and **DeForge had a hard time finding the plate when he relieved the Reidsville lefthander in the Eighth.**

The Luckies came back Saturday night and commanded the Cardinals all the way. They quieted a Cardinal rally in the ninth and won 10-7. Bob Downing, who hit a three run homer and Dean Frye who got a double and three singles out of five trips to the plate, were the batting stars of the game.

Lew Hester allowed only seven hits in six innings he pitched but he was pulled for Ed Holte in the seventh when it looked like the ace Reidsville lefthander was weakening.

Yesterday afternoon the Luckies chased Lefty Hazwell in the second to defeat the Greensboro Patriots 7-4 in Winston-Salem's Southside Park. The victory broke the Pat's win streak at three straight games. . The Luckies touched three Greensboro hurlers for ten hits while Red Gardner scattered 10 Greensboro hits for his win.

Tonight the Luckies and Patriot's tangle again as Greensboro makes her first appearance in Kiker Stadium. The game will start at 8 p.m. and Fernandez will pitch.

The Greensboro Daily News
May 1948

The Winston-Salem Club officials obtained plain clothesmen the following night, but the person who on the previous night gambled large sums, did not show up. The club reported the matter to Carroll Brown, league president and he in turn reported it to Trautman. Brown spent all last week in Trautman's office and departed yesterday for the meeting called today in Columbus.

No Jurisdiction

Asked if the person who did the gambling would appear at the Columbus hearing, Trautman replied, "The National Association has no jurisdiction over any person not associated with professional baseball."

Trautman, Brown, Lundeen and Club President Pat Brady of Reidsville have identified the gambler and presumably will name him at the meeting in Columbus today.

Lundeen reported, "Mr. Trautman was very nice to Barney last week during the hearing. He wanted all the facts possible and we came back figuring that the matter had been settled. When we returned, we called a meeting of all the players and they told Barney they were with him 100 per cent. Then came the telegram to Barney and myself on Saturday. As for the ball game in Winston-Salem, it seems that there was just an amazing coincidence which just looked bad."

DeForge was the star pitcher for the Greensboro ORD Tech Hawks for two years leading the team to third place in the National Baseball Congress championships at Wichita, Kansas for two years. In 1946 he was with Cambridge, Maryland in the Eastern Shore League where he pitched in 23 games and 127 innings and walked 14 batters. Last year he was with Natchez, Mississippi in the Evangeline League, pitched 147 innings in 23 games and walked 25 men.

DeForge Obtained

With the Luckies coming into the Carolina League for the first time this year, DeForge was obtained as manager. The club trained in Florence, S.C. at a camp with Florence of the Tri-State League and Leaksville of the Blue Ridge League. The latest Howe News Bureau figures as published in the Daily News last Sunday show DeForge had worked 22 innings this year through the previous Monday and had walked eight men. The Luckies were in fourth place in the Carolina League standings yesterday.

DeForge could not be reached by the Daily News last night. He has apparently left for Columbus.

Whether the meeting in Columbus today will result in a ruling or will only be a prelude to a more extensive inquiry in a matter of conjecture in baseball circles.

Meanwhile the Reidsville ball club is under the active management of Tal Abernathy, left-handed pitcher and formerly a star at Elon College. Business Manager Lundeen stated that Abernathy managed the club during DeForge's absence last week and that he took over a Burlington after DeForge had learned of his suspension.

The Blues manager suffered a 3-inch gash over his forehead in the 6th inning when one of DeFoges curve balls hit his mask

1938 in the Evangeline League, Mike Kash (Kaiserski) was 20-5 and Steve Warchol (Dul) 11-1, Bernie DeForge and Bill Butland both had 19-6 records.

1946 – Barney DeForge spend part of the year with Montreal (Triple AAA) of the Dodger organization with a 2-1 record and by July of this year he was released. The remainder of the year he spent as manager of the Cambridge Dodgers of the Eastern League. Jackie Robinson was a member of the Montreal team in 1946.

The Fix Is In: A History of Baseball Gambling and Game Fixing Scandals
By Daniel Ginsburg

In May 1948 reports began to circulate that a "gambling coup" had been made by an out-of-town gambler in Winston-Salem's Southside Park on May 14. On that night Winston Salem had defeated the visiting Reidsville club by a score of 5-0. The Winston-Salem management immediately began an investigation into the rumors and informed the police.

Initially, little evidence turned up and it looked as though the incident was closed. Then in early June, National Association President George Troutman announced that player-manager Barney DeForge of the Reidsville club and Ed Weingarten, who was principal stockholder and general manager and treasurer of the Florence, South Carolina club in the Tri-State League and president of the Leaksville, North Carolina club in the Blue Ridge League, were being placed on the permanent ineligible list. Troutman's statement released on June 1 after an extensive investigation revealed that DeForge and Weingarten had conspired with gambler W.C. McWaters to make sure that DeForge's Reidsville club lost their game to Winston-Salem on May 14th by at least three runs.

The events that took place during the game were certainly more than a little suspicious. At the beginning of the eight inning, Winston Salem was leading Reidsville by a score of 2-0. Then DeForge who was noted for his fine control put himself on the mound instead of starter Ted Abernathy. DeForge went on to issue four bases on balls along with a wild pitch helped to lead to three runs for Winston-Salem, bringing the final score to 5-0.

The suspicious nature of DeForge's pitching along with persistent rumors of the gambling coup. After much questioning DeForge confessed to Troutman that he had, in fact thrown the game. He stated that on May 10 he had met with Ed Weingarten in the Hotel Belvedere in Reidsville. Weingarten had introduced to W.C. McWaters, a used car dealer who was a professional gambler. McWaters had told DeForge that the opportunity existed for "making money by betting on baseball games" and it was agreed McWaters would contact DeForge at the proper time.

According to the testimony of DeForge, McWaters contacted DeForge on May 14 and set up a meeting at the Robert E. Lee Hotel in Winston-Salem for that afternoon. At the meeting McWaters instructed McForge to be sure that Reidsville lost the game by at least three runs. After the game, DeForge meet McWaters in the hotel lobby, at which time McWaters handed DeForge three $100 bills for his efforts. Weingarten totally denied DeForge statement, but it was established that Weingarten had been a guest at the Belvedere Hotel on the day in question and that he and McWaters were seen in conversation in the hotel lobby during the day.

DeForge expressed his regret over becoming involved in the incident. A veteran minor leaguer, he began his career with Beatrice of the Nebraska State League in 1937, later playing with Dayton, Ohio, Durham, Durham, North Carolina, Birmingham Alabama, Portsmouth, Virginia and Montreal, Canada. After three years in service during WWII, he joined Natchez, Mississippi in the Evangeline League in 1947, serving as player-manager. When confronted with the evidence, DeForge stated "I don't know why I did it. I guess it was just a weak moment. I thought I was being smart." The history of the Evangeline League suggested that the seeds of corruption were sown during his membership in that league. The Evangeline League would have been an excellent place to learn about baseball corruption.

After Troutman's action the directors of the Blue Ridge League declared that Weingarten's Leaksville Franchise was forfeited. They decided that the club would be operated by the league until new owners were found.

Baseball was powerless to take any action on its own against gambler McWaters who instigated the whole affair but in the wake of the Black Sox scandal, North Carolina had passed a statute making a bribe of a baseball player, umpire or official a felony. Upon conviction the person in question would be confined to a state penitentiary for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years.

DeForge, Weingarten and McWaters were all arrested in early June and released on bond. DeForge cooperated fully with authorities, admitting his role in the scandal and providing evidence against Weingarten and McWaters.

On June 14, Ed Weingarten was again arrested in Florence, South Carolina. On June 24 DeForge, Weingarten, McWaters and gambler Tom Phillips were indicted in Forsyth County, North Carolina and charged with conspiracy. A trial date was set for July 7 but end up being postponed because Weingarten became ill with a kidney block. The former club owner lapse into a coma on July 5 and died on July 9 before a trial could be held. The trial was rescheduled for September.

The legal process finally ended on October 23, when DeForge was found guilty of throwing the May 14 game. In surprising decision, the jury acquitted McWaters and Tommy Phillips. Judge Allan H. Gwyn termed the acquittal of McWaters and Phillips "in its entirety unsatisfactory." He added "I have no doubt that he (DeForge) met in Reidsville with Weingarten and McWaters."

At the urging of the prosecuting attorney Walter Johnstone Jr., County sheriff Ernie Shore and Chief of Police John Gold, DeForge's one-year prison term was suspended. DeForge's complete cooperation with authorities was given as the reason for suspending the sentence. Judge Gwyn placed DeForge on probation for five years and urged him to "rise above what has come out of this case." DeForge replied, "I will sir."

Sheriff Ernie Shore was a former major league baseball player. Shore pitched in the major leagues between 1912 and 1920, mostly with the Boston Red Sox, and compiled a lifetime record of 65 wins against 43 losses with a earn run average of 2.47. He was best known for a role in game he played on June 23, 1917, when he relieved Red Sox pitcher Babe Ruth, who was ejected from the game for protesting a walk to the first batter. The runner was caught stealing and Shore retired the next 26 batters in a row to record a perfect game.

Fortunately for George Troutman, the DeForge affair marked the last minor league gambling scandal of the 1940's. In fact this was the last incident to occur until 1959 when a new scandal broke out, this time in the Class AA Southern Association.

From an article on the internet "Smokeless Tobacco and Baseball: A short story as remembered by former Brooklyn Dodger, Rex Barney:

"When I first broke into the Dodger's system, I was just a kid, 18 years old (1943). And we had a coach, an old guy named Barney DeForge (26 years old), or something like that.....I was sitting in the bullpen one night and DeForge said to me: 'Kid, you want to get into the Major Leagues?'
"I said, 'Sure, that's what it's all about."
"He says, you don't chew tobacco, do you?"
"I said, 'No."
"He said, "Well, you'll never get there unless you chew tobacco."

"In those days, if you had twenty five players, 24 chewed tobacco. Very naïve, I said 'OK.' I tried it. The only thingy I remember is chomping down a couple of times and getting deathly ill. I was suppose to start the next night, and I was still so sick I couldn't even leave the hotel. I said to myself, 'If that's what it takes to make the Major Leagues, I'll never make it."

The Reidsville Review, 25 May 1948

Luckies' Skipper Appearing on Gambling Charges

Ted Abernathy Is Acting Manager

Barney DeForge, manager of the fourth place Reidsville Luckies, goes before the National Association of the Minor League clubs at a meeting on Columbus, Ohio, today in connection with an investigation into reports "gambling and bribery" growing out of a game played between Winston-Salem and Reidsville at Southside Park in Winston-Salem on Friday night, May 14.

DeForge has been suspended. George M. Trautman, president of the National Association, made the announcement last night that DeForge has been summoned to Columbus.

DeForge received word of his suspension during the game between Reidsville and Burlington, at Burlington Saturday night. He was pitching at the time and removed himself from the box.

The charges of bribery and gambling grew out of a charge by Vedia Himal, business manager of the Winston-Salem Cardinals, whose suspicions were aroused by the late-inning incidents of the May 14 game.

According to reports, there was a person in the stands making heavy bets, spotting Reidsville two runs, and needing three runs to win the bet. In the bottom of the eighth, with the Luckies trailing 2-0, DeForge took Abernathy off the mound, went in himself, walked several Cardinal batters and gave up three runs.

Last Friday night Business Manager Phil Lundeen met with the ballplayers in the clubhouse and told them about the charges brought against their manager. When Lundeen was through the players made it known that they were behind DeForge one hundred per cent, and they said "let's get out and win this game" which they did with a struggle.

Tal Abernathy, who has skippered the Luckies many times during DeForge's absence, has taken over the job. Abernathy has done a good job in DeForge's absence. He is well liked by the players and fans and is one of the league's best left-handed pitchers.

The Reidsville Review, 26 May 1948

Investigation of Carolina League Incident Continues

Trautman Says No charges Have Been Filed.

COLUMBUS, O., May 26 – Minor League President George Trautman today withheld decision on charges of bribery and gambling filed against Barney DeForge manager and pitcher of the Reidsville, N.C. baseball club of the Carolina League.

(Editor's note) Trautman told the Associated Press yesterday, "No charges have been filed in the case. We are merely investigating, at present, a situation in the Carolina League. The welfare and future of several persons are involved, and we do not intend to go off half-cocked in reaching a decision. We may have a statement of some kind late today or it may be late this week. We'll have nothing to say until we have all the facts."

Trautman's only comment on a hearing the case yesterday was that a ruling would be made eventually. He did not disclose whether DeForge was still under suspension ordered last Saturday.

The suspension followed charges of gambling and bribery that grew out of an inquire conducted by Vedie Himal, business manager of the Winston-Salem baseball club.

"Although established over a long period in baseball as a pitcher with exceptionally good control, "DeForge issued four bases on balls and committed a wild pitch, resulting in Winston-Salem winning by a score of 5-0."

Trautman said that DeForge reported to the hotel lobby "at which time (the gambler) gave him three $100 bills with remark that he hated to see what you have to do what you did."

Weingarten, Trautman said, denied the charges entirely despite "documentary evidence" that he was at the hotel the day of the alleged meeting with DeForge and that he was seen in conversation with McWaters.

Trautman also slapped a $500 suspended fine on Phil Lundeen, president of the Reidsville team yesterday following an incidental disclosure which resulted from the DeForge investigation. The fine was levied because the Association of Minor Leagues was notified that two of his stockholders also held shares in the Florence Club, a violation of Association rules.

The Reidsville Review, 2 June 1948

The Reidsville Luckies reacted angrily to the news that they had been "sold out" by their former manager, Barney DeForge, in a ball game played in Winston-Salem on May 14.

The Reidsville players have been behind DeForge one hundred per cent, believing his innocence until the news broke yesterday. Their reaction on the playing field was very much the same as it was the night they heard about the charges. That night they won an eleven-inning contest from the Winston-Salem Cardinals. Last night they also won as eleven-inning contest and this time from the Raleigh Capitals.

The Reidsville baseball team is not regarded as the leagues very best, but the Reidsville fans wouldn't trade teams with any other Carolina League's cities. The team hustles and plays to win. The "sellout" couldn't have happened to a nicer bunch of guys.

Tal Abnernathy has been handling the Luckies most capably in Deforge's absence. Phil Lundeen could not be reached at this writing in regard to a permanent manager for the Luckies. Besides doing a fine job of managing the Luckies, Abernathy has also been taking his turn on the mound and winning games. He is considered one of the league's very best left-handed pitchers.

Winston Salem Journal
25 May 1948

Barney DeForge Called Before Minors' Czar
Bribery, Gambling Alleged

Barney DeForge veteran minor league hurler and manager of the Reidsville Luckies will go before the National Association of Minor Leagues clubs at a meeting at Columbus, Ohio in connection with an investigation into the reports of "gambling and bribery" growing out of a game played between Winston-Salem and Reidsville at Southside Park Friday night, May 14.

DeForge Has Been Suspended

George M. Trautman, president of the National Association made the announcement last night that DeForge has been summoned to Columbus.

President Carroll Brown of the Carolina League and DeForge were in Columbus to attend the meeting today.

DeForge received word of his suspension during the game between Reidsville and Burlington at Burlington Saturday night. He was pitching at the time and removed himself from the box.

Winston Salem Journal
May 1948

Three League Heads Called to Columbus

A surprise move which carried no explanation other than an announcement of hearing of a dispute over franchise ownerships in the Carolinas and Virginia had been set for Tuesday, June 1 at Columbus, Ohio, was made by George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (the minors) last night. The minor's headquarters announced that presidents of three leagues, the Class C. Carolina, the Class B Tri-State and the class D Blue Ridge, had been requested to attend the hearing.

Judge C.M. Llewellyn of Concord will represent the Tri-State, Stanley F. Radke of Roanoke, Va. will attend for the Blue Ridge League and Carroll T. Brown of Martinsville, Va. will represent the Carolina League at the meeting. The names of the clubs involved were not disclosed in the announcement.

Plans Decision

Meanwhile, Trautman also announced he expects to reach a decision in the case of Barney DeForge of Reidsville of the Carolina league baseball club about the middle of next week.

The associated press quoted Trautman as saying that DeForge, player-manager of the Luckies, was still under suspension. He declined comment on the hearing which DeForge attended this week at Columbus.

The minor league czar, according to wire service stories, said at the time that DeForge was called to his office Tuesday for questioning that he was investigating "a situation" in the league and would not announce his findings until all facts had been gathered and weighed. The welfare and future of several persons are involved," he was quoted as announcing.

President Brown of the Carolina League has been in Columbus since Tuesday attending the hearings.

It is known that several investigators were here last week questioning fans about the reported gambling coup at Southside Park on the night of May 14. Winston-Salem and Reidsville met in this game.

It was also leaned that another heavy gambling coup was carried out in another park in another league just two days after the affair here.

The Greensboro News
25 May 1948

Ball Player Is Accused Of Gambling
Reidsville Man To Get Hearing

Barney DeForge, manager and veteran pitcher for the Reidsville Luckies in the Carolina League, will appear today in Columbus, Ohio, before the ruling powers of minor league baseball in connection with the charges of gambling and bribery.

George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body of the minor leagues, told the Daily News by telephone yesterday:

DeForge was suspended by the National Association last Saturday. He had been summoned to appear before the National Association in Columbus, Ohio, at 11 a.m. Tuesday (today) in our continued investigation of gambling and bribery charges growing from a Carolina League game in Winston-Salem, May 14.

All baseball officials concede that all charges involving the Reidsville manager are serious. The only North Carolina baseball player, either a native or playing on a team in the state, ever convicted by the National Association of such charges was Hooper Triplett who was suspended fro life for allegedly betting on games at Columbus, Ga. In the South Atlantic League in 1946.

DeForge and Phil Lundeen, Reidsville business manager spent two days in Trauthman's office last week. After their return home, the ball club received from the National Association a telegram announcing DeForge's suspension. DeForge was handed the telegram in the second inning of the first game of a Saturday double-header in Burlington. He was pitching at the time.

Charges ob=f bribery and gambling grew out of an inquiry conducted by Vedi Himal, business manager of the Winston-Salem baseball club. Himal's suspicions were aroused by late inning incidents in the Winston-Reidsville league games May 14

As related in the Daily News by baseball officials who were on the scene, this is what happened:

There was a person in the stands making heavy bets. He was giving

Luckies' Manager Suspended By National Association
Winston Game Action Opens Serious Case
Abernathy Takes Over Management

Reidsville and two runs, which means that if Winston-Salem beat Reidsville by more than two runs, he would win the bets, in the bottom of the eight inning with Winston-Salem at bat, Manager DeForge took out Reidsville pitcher Tal Abernathy and took the mound himself. The score was 2-0 at the time, which, had the score remained as such, would have canceled all bets. DeForge walked four straight men and Winston scored three runs in the inning and won the game, 5-0.

Lundeen, the Reidsville business manager, told the Daily News that after the game, Winston-Salem fans rushed the Reidsville dugout;

"People congregated around the dugout and they were arguing a lot," Lundeen said. "They were calling our players a lot of names but when somebody accused the boys of 'laying down,' the players were ready to fight."

The Reidsville Review

25 May 1948

Luckies Skipper Appearing On Gambling Charges

Tal Abernathy Is Acting Manager

Barney DeForge, manager of the fourth place Reidsville Luckies, goes before the National Association of Minor League clubs in Columbus, Ohio today in connection with the investigation into reports "gambling and bribery" growing out a game played between Winston-Salem and Reidsville at Southside Park in Winston-Salem on Friday night, May 14th. DeForge has been suspended.

George M. Trautman, president of the National Association, made the announcement last night that DeForge had been summoned to Columbus.

DeForge received word of his suspension during the game between Reidsville and Burlington, at Burlington Saturday night. He was pitching at the time and removed himself from the box.

The charge of Bribery and gambling grew out of a charge Vedie Himsl, business manager of the Winston-Salem Cardinals whose suspicions were aroused by the late-inning incidents of the May 14th game.

According to reports, there was a person in the stands making heavy bets, spotting Reidsville two runs and needed three runs to win the bets. In the bottom of the eighth, with the Luckies trailing 2-0, DeForge took Abernathy off the mound, went in himself, walker several Cardinal batters and gave up three runs.

Late Friday night Business Manager Phil Lundeen met with the ball players in the clubhouse and told them about the charges brought against their manager. When Lundeen was through the players made it known that they were behind DeForge one hundred per cent and they said "let's get out and win this game," which they did after a struggle.

Tal Abernathy, who has skippered the Luckies many times during DeForge's absence. He is well liked by the players and fans and is one of the league's best left-handed pitchers.

26 May 1948

Investigation Of Carolina League Incident Continues

Trautman Says No Charges Have Been File

Columbus, Ohio-Minor League President George Trautman today withheld decision on charges of bribery and gambling filed against Barney DeForge, manager and pitcher of the Reidsville, N.C. baseball club of the Carolina League.

(Editor's note: Trautman told the Associated Press yesterday, "No charges have been filed in this case. We are merely investigating at present a situation in the Carolina League. The welfare and future of several persons are involved and we do not intend to go off half-cocked in reaching a decision. We may have a statement of some kind late today or it may be late this week. We'll have nothing to say until we have all the facts."

Truatman's only comment on a hearing in the case yesterday was that a ruling would be made eventually. He did nit disclosed whether DeForge was still under a suspension ordered last Saturday.

The suspension followed charges of bribery and gambling that grew out of an investigation conducted by Vedie Himsl, business manager of the Winston-Salem baseball club.

Officials who witnessed Winston-Salem-Reidsville game May 14th said a man in the stands was making heavy bets that that Winston-Salem would win by more than two runs. While Winston-Salem was leading by a score of 2-0 in the last half of the eighth inning, they reported, DeForge took out pitcher Tal Abernathy and went to the mound himself.

Game records show DeForge walked four consecutive batters and Winston-Salem scored three runs to win 5-0.

Winston Salem Journal
2 June 1948

Banned From Baseball For "Throwing" Game

Baseball yesterday imposed the heaviest penalty-expulsion for life-on a player-manager and an official of two minor league clubs on charges of bribery, gambling and "throwing" of a Carolina League game at Southside Park here the night of May 14.

Ousted, following a long investigation by President George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs (the minors), were Barney DeForge, manager and pitcher of the Reidsville club of he Carolina League and Ed Weingarten, official of the Florence, S.C. club in the Class B Tri-State League and of the Leaksville Club of the Class D Blue Ridge League.

The banishment was the climax of an investigation by the National Association of a game which the Cardinals won from the Luckies, 5-0.

DeForge Received $300

Trautman, in a long statement at Columbus, Ohio, said that DeForge admitted "throwing" the game and receiving $300 from "one M.C. McWaters."

DeForge in his confession was reported to have given all details of a story of gambling and game-throwing involving Weingarten and McWaters.

Efforts to identify McWaters last night were unsuccessful as his name was not linked with the preliminary investigation here. He is not a resident of Winston-Salem.

The Trautman statement that DeForge's "misconduct stemmed from a meeting May 10th in the Hotel Belvedere, Reidsville between himself, Weingarten and McWaters." Trautman quoted the Reidsville manager as saying they discussed the proposition of "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games" an it was agreed McWaters would contact DeForge at the proper time.

Called By McWaters

DeForge was quoted as saying he received a telephone call at his Reidsville home from McWaters on May 14th, who later told him to "see to it that Reidsville lost that night's game by at least three runs.

The record showed that the after seven and a half innings .Winston Salem was leading 2-0. DeForge then relieved starting pitcher Tal Abernathy. The Reidsville manager gave up four bases on balls and uncorked a wild pitch, Winston-Salem scoring three runs and winning 5-0.

DeForge was quoted by Trautman that McWaters handed him $300 in a hotel lobby after the game and that McWaters remarked, "I hate to see you (DeForge) do what you did."

Weingarten was summoned to yesterday's meeting where DeForge repeated the charges face to face. Weingarten continued to deny the charges even when presented Trautmans reports, with documented evidence establishing that he was at the Belvedere Hotel in Reidsville on May 10th, that "McWaters" had registered at the hotel and that he and "McWaters" were seen in conversation in the hotel lobby.

Trautman notified the principals that they have the right to appeal to the executive committee at the National Association within 30 days and should that appeal be denied, they have the right to further appeal to Commissioner A.B. Chandler.

Story of The Game

The incident which broke the gambling charge came about as follows:

Winston-Salem was leading Reidsville 2-0 in the eighth inning. Tal Abernathy was pitching. In the bottom of the eighth Manager DeForge relieved Abernathy, a left handed pitcher. The first Winston batter, Zernie, a left-handed batter, walked. Caswell also walked. Rutherford was safe on a fielder's choice in which Zernie was trapped off third. Frye walked to fill the bases with Mason at bat. DeForge made a wild pitch. Caswell scored for the 3-0 run. Mason walked to fill the bases again. Frisinger was safe on a fielder's choice but two runs scored on the play. Blackwell grounded out for the third out.

The gambler was betting that Winston-Salem would win by more than two runs. It was estimated from an earlier investigation in Winston-Salem that the gambler collected about $2,900 at the ball park with additional bets uptown

Fan Started Inquiring

After the game, a Winston baseball fan, who had not bet on the game, came to the sports desk of Frank Spencer, sports editor of the Winston-Salem Journal, with the complaint that the game had been thrown. Two Winston-Salem ballplayers were in the newspaper office at the time. The Winston Salem club business manager, Vedie Himsl began an investigation the next day even calling the Reidsville business manager. It was learned of the sums that had been gambled, but the police could get no evidence to continue their investigation. President Brown of the Carolina League was notified and he visited the Park Sunday, May 16th, when Greensboro took its "home" game with Reidsville to Winston-Salem. Brown in turn carried the case to Trautman.

DeForge and Lundeen appeared before the National Association two weeks ago. When DeForge returned, he received a telegram suspending him. He was recalled to Columbus last Tuesday. At that time he was called as a witness and was not charged with anything, Trautman insisted.

Former Tech-Hawk

DeForge who began his professional baseball in 1937 with the Beatrice club of the Nebraska State League, had been with the Greensboro ORD Tech-Hawks for two years. He managed, Natchez, Miss. Of the Evangeline League last year and came to Reidsville' He had an outstanding record for "control" on the mound, walking only 23 men in 147 innings last year.

Weingarten began his connection with professional ball in Greensboro. He resigned as manager of Star Credit Clothing Company here to organize in late 1945 the Greensboro Exhibition Corporation which brought the Patriots franchise from Jon Voehrintriol, Jerry Collins and Charlie Eatman for $7,500. The first year of the new organization of which Dave Burtner was chosen president with Weingarten as general manager, drew over 171,000 fans for a new class C record.

The corporation also owned the football Patriots of the Dixie Pro League. "After three games, "Burtner told the Daily News yesterday, "Weingarten resigned. Football was losing money. I made him a proposition and he took me up. We gave him the football and we took the baseball and each went his own way.

In Reidsville

Weingarten in 1947 operated the Reidsville franchise in the Tri-State League, making it a road club the latter part of the season. He also bought the Leaksville franchise in the Carolina League at midseason when the league has to assume the clubs obligations. The ideas was to switch the Reidsville franchise to some South Carolina city (eventually Florence) with the Leaksville club of the Carolina League being moved to Reidsville.

However the Carolina League directors voted to accept the Reidsville club only if Weingarten had no connection, President Brown has stated.

Weingarten operated Florence and kept a club in Leaksville in the Blue Ridge League. Weingarten had retained his apartment in Greensboro.

At Charlotte Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn said that two detectives had been assigned to check reports of a betting coup at the Florence-Charlotte Tri-State game May 15th.

Littlejohn made it clear that the investigation revealed no evidence that indicate the Charlotte players or management were involving in a gambling deal. He added that his force had been alerted to crack down on gambling at local games.

2 June 1948

Luckies' Fans Mighty Sore; Team Spirited

What happened at Barney DeForge's "home" ball park tonight? Well, "his" Reidsville Luckies won themselves another ball game and it took eleven innings to beat the Raleigh Caps. It moved the Luckies a half-game out of third place.

Guy McWhorter, a veteran ball player himself, pinch hitting for official scorer Bill Hall at tonight's game, summarized the fans view point as follows:

"Well the fans couldn't believe it of DeForge. From the time the rumors started, they were behind him. So was the team, 100 per cent. But now that he has confessed to throwing the game, the fans are sore at him. The players are, too. They don't care to see him anymore."

"The team remains in good spirits. They're out there to keep winning." Mrs. DeForge left their apartment here last week. Their home is in Jersey City, N.J.

DeForge today was banned for life from professional baseball for throwing the Winston-Salem-Reidsville game May 14th, the National Association of Professional Baseball League stated.

The Reidsville Review
2 June 1948

Police Step Into Baseball Gambling, Bribery Case
DeForge and Weingarten Banned For Life From Organized Baseball

Police stepped into the case of a "thrown" Carolina League baseball game today after a player-manager who confessed taking a bribe and a club official he implicated were banned from the sport for life.

Minor League Commissioner George Trautman blew the lid off the newest gambling scandal to cloud the baseball scene when he announced that Bernard DeForge , pitcher-manager of the Reidsville, N.C. club had admitted receiving $300 for throwing a game against Winston-Salem, May 14 and charged Ed Weingarten, secretary treasurer of Florence, S. C. club of the Tri-State League with being in on the coup.

Trautman, in addition placing both on the permanently inedible list, demanded criminal action under a North Carolina law which calls for one to five years imprisonment for accepting or offering a bribe in a baseball game.

Police were quick to follow through. Chief John M. Gold of Winston-Salem force said he already had detailed facts on the case and was continuing an extensive investigation.

Gold pointed out however, a criminal case would require much evidence than a baseball probe. "I couldn't say what action might be taken," he said. "That will depend on the facts that we uncover."

Meanwhile, Charlotte, N.C. police revealed they were checking into reports of gambling coup on the May 16 Tri-State League game between Charlotte and Florence. Chief Frank Littlejohn said he had no definite evidence into reports of a gambling coup as yet

Trautman from his office in Columbus, Ohio said that DeForge made his "confession" after prolonged questioning.

Under DeForge's admission's as his source, the Minors Leagues Commissioner reconstructed the story this way:

Several days before the May 14 game, DeForge, Weingarten and a man identified as W.C. McWaters met at Hotel Belvedere in Reidsville and discussed "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games." It was agreed that McWaters would "contact" DeForge at the proper time.

Meanwhile reports reached Trautman's office that Winston Salem would win by at least three runs May 14 and that DeForge was seen talking with a "well-known gambler while he was warming up.

After seven and a half innings of play in the game with Winston-Salem leading 2 to 0. DeForge relieved Tal Abernathy.

"Although established over a long period as a baseball a pitcher with exceptionally good control" Trautmans statement said, "DeForge issued four bases on balls and committed a wild pitch, resulting in Winston-Salem winning a score of 5 to 0."

Trautman said that DeFroge reported to the hotel lobby "at which time the (gambler) surreptitiously handed him three $100 bills with the remark that he hated to see you have to do what you did.

Weingarten, Trautman said denied the charges entirely despite "documentary evidence" that he was at the hotel at the day of the alleged meeting with DeForge and that he was seen in conversation with McWaters.

Trautman also slapped a $500 suspended fine on Phil Lundeen, president of the Reidsville team yesterday following an incidental disclosure which resulted from the DeForge investigation. The fined was levied because the association of Minor Leagues was not notified that two of the stockholders had held shares in the Florence club, a violation of the Association rules.

Greensboro Daily News
2 June 1948

DeForge And Weingarten Ordered Banned For Life In Organized Baseball

Reidsville Star Draws Stiff Penalty

Professional Baseball yesterday banned for life Bernard (Barney) DeForge, manager of Reidsville Luckies and Emanuel (Ed) Weingarten of Greensboro, general manager of minor league teams in the Carolinas.

The National Association pf Professional Baseball Leagues in the announcement stated that DeForge admitted that he threw a Carolina League game in Winston-Salem May 14th for $300.

Weingarten denied all charges of being involved in the bribery and gambling which grew from this game, but George Trautman, the czar of minor leagues, imposed the same penalty on the former general manager of the Greensboro Patriots. He is now an official of the Leaksville Club in the Blue Ridge League and the Florence, S.C. club of the Tri-State league

Lundeen Fined

Phil Lundeen, president of the Reidsville club, was also fined $500 for failing to report to the National Association that two of his club owner's, Pat Brady and Tom Smothers also held stock in the Florence club. The fine was suspended, Trautman ruled, but is payable if Lundeen is guilty of another violation.

The judgments made yesterday climax three weeks of intense investigation by officials of the Winston-Salem club of President Carroll Brown of the Carolina League and Trautman's office.

Trautman's statement read as follows: "The only regret that his office has with respect to these orders is that the President of the National Association is not empowered to impose upon Weingarten a penalty truly commensurate with offense. In this connection,



BARNEY DeFORGE
No More Baseball

EMANUEL WEINGARTEN
Denied All Charges

there is some consolation in the knowledge that a statue of the state of North Carolina provides a penalty of imprisonment for anybody found guilty of "fixing" a ball game and I feel I speak for professional baseball when I wish the law enforcement officials of the state Godspeed in any action the state might institute against the guilty."

'McWaters" Unknown

Winston-Salem police said last night that no immediate legal action was planned. The police were also without knowledge of "one W.C. McWaters" who was named in the National Association's text as being the gambler involved in the Winston-Salem game which DeForge admitted throwing. The Daily News has learned that another name had been identified in the original investigation by the police and the Winston-Salem ball club.

DeForge, it was learned, had confessed his guilt last Tuesday on his second appearance before Trautman. Announcement was withheld because his testimony involved Weingarten, who was summoned to yesterday's meeting.

DeForge testified that his guilt began at the meeting May 10 in the Hotel Belvedere in Reidsville between himself, McWaters and Weingarten. DeForge stated that the subject discussed was the proposition of "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games." It was agreed, DeForge said, that 'McWaters" would "contact" him at the proper time.

That contact was made the afternoon of May 14 when "McWaters' telephoned DeForge at his home in Reidsville. The call first went to the baseball office but DeForge was not there. The "McWarers' person told DeForge to come to the Robert E. Lee Hotel in Winston-Salem that afternoon before going to the ball park. DeForge stated that he met 'McWaters" in the lobby of the hotel and was told that he was to see to it that Reidsville lost that night's game by at least three runs.

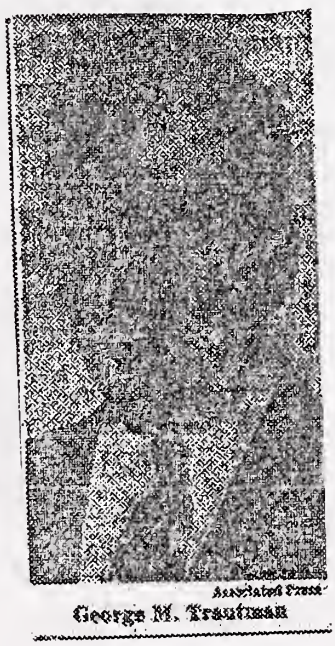
Tells of Pay-Off

Reidsville lost 5-0 after DeForge put himself in to pitch in the eighth inning with the score 2-0.

After the game DeForge returned to the Robert E. Lee Hotel and "McWaters handed him three $100 bills with the remark that he hated to see DeForge have to do what he did.



TAL ABERNATHY
Takes Reins



George M. Trautman

Greensboro Daily News
Winston Salem Journal
2 June 1948
Trautman's Official Text In DeForge-Weingarten Case

Columbus, Ohio-The test of the statement by George M. Trautman, President of the National Association of Professional Baseball clubs (the minors), announcing life suspensions of two minor league baseball men for alleged gambling games as follows: "On Friday, May 14, Winston Salem and Reidsville, both of the Carolina League, played a night game at Winston Salem. At the conclusion of 7 ½ innings of play, with the score 2 to 0 in favor of Winston Salem, Reidsville manager, Bernard DeForge relieved pitcher Tal Abernathy and himself took over the pitching assignment. Although established over a long period in baseball as a pitcher with exceptionally good control. DeForge issued four bases on ball and committed a wild pitch, the net result being that Winston-Salem scored three unearned runs in its half of the eighth inning and won the game 5 to 0.

"Reports were received at this office that heavy gambling had taken place on the game on the basis that Winston-Salem would win by at least three runs, that a known gambler had been seen talking with DeForge while he was warming up, that there was no logical reason for relief of Pitcher Abernathy and that DeForge had issued the bases on balls in order to assure defeat of his team by at least three runs.

"As always, this office is extremely reluctant to accept the idea that poor performance on the field indicates that a player has not given his best efforts toward the winning of the game. Were he to look upon each instance of poor play being as being indicative of an unholy motive on the part of the player concerned, baseball would indeed be a hazardous occupation for any young man to pursue. However, the circumstances surrounding this particular incident demanded a review of the whole situation, and this office has undertaken and completed an investigation relative thereto.

"After prolonged questions, DeForge confessed that he had in fact "thrown" the game in question. He further stated that his misconduct stemmed from a meeting May 10 in the Hotel Belvedere, Reidsville, between himself, one W.C. McWaters and Ed Weingarten, an official of the Florence and Leaksville clubs. DeForge stated that the subject discussed was the proposition of "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games," and it was agreed that McWaters would contact DeForge at the proper time.

"During the hearing relative to the general subject , it was disclosed that the Reidsville club, through its president, Phil Lundeen, had filed with Commissioner Chandler a statement of the interest of its owners with other clubs without mentioning that Reidsville Stockholders Brady and Smothers held a stock interest in the Florence club. Lundeen testified that this omission was the result was the result of inadvertence on his part, and this office is inclined to believe his defense. Therefore, Lundeen is hereby fined the sum of $500, the collection of which is suspended until such time as Lundeen may again be guilty of such misconduct."

"The next development in the sordid affair was a telephone call received by DeForge at his Reidsville home on May 14 in which McWaters directed him to come to the Robert E. Lee Hotel, Winston Salem, that afternoon. DeForge states that he met McWaters in the

lobby of the hotel and was told that he was to see to it that Reidsville lost that night's game by at least three runs.

"The incidents recited in the first paragraph of this decision that took place took place, and DeForge reported back to McWaters in the hotel lobby after conclusion of the game, at which time McWaters surreptitiously handed him three $100 bills, with the remark that he (McWaters) "hated to see you (DeForge) have to do what you (DeForge) did."

"Unfortunately, this office is without jurisdiction with respects to McWaters and could not require him to answer DeForge's charges. It does, however, have jurisdiction over the club official concerned, Ed Weingarten, and that individual was summoned to this office fir a hearing on June 1.

"Upon being questioned, Weingarten denied DeForge's statements in total, whereupon DeForge was called into the hearing and repeated his charges. Weingarten remained adamant in his denials, even when presented with documentary evidence establishing that he was at the Belvedere Hotel in Reidsville, May 10, that McWaters had registered at the Hotel and that he and McWaters were seen in conversation in the hotel lobby that day.

"This office, of course, is obliged to find DeForge guilty of conduct detrimental to baseball and is unable to accept Weingarten's statements that the was in no way involved. According to the following orders are entered:

1 .Player DeForge is hereby place on permanently ineligible list.

2. Ed Weingarten is hereby placed on the permanently ineligible list.

3. The game on May 14 between Winston-Salem and Reidsville is hereby ordered to be replayed from the point the misconduct occurred until conditions approximating as closely as possible the situation at the end of 7 ½ innings of play.

"The only regret this office has with respect to these orders is that the President of the National Associations is not empowered to impose against Weingarten truly commensurate with his knowledge that a stature of the state of North Carolina provides a penalty of imprisonment for anybody found guilty of "fixing" a ball game and I feel I speak for all of professional baseball when I wish the law enforcement officials of that state Godspeed in any action the state might institute against the guilty.

"Under the rules, DeForge and Weingarten have a right to appeal from this decision to the executive committee of the National Association. Any such appeal should be presented by notice to this office within 30 days from the date hereof. Should Weingarten or DeForge appeal to the Executive Committee and should the appeal be denied, Weingarten and DeForge have a right to appeal further to Commissioner Chandler."

The Pittsburgh Post Gazette
2 June 1948

Ban Official, Player In Minor Loop Scandal
Action Caused by Throwing Game at Winston Salem for $300

Columbus, O., June 1 (AP) Baseball banned for life Tuesday a minor league club official and a pitcher-manager on charges of bribery, gambling and game-throwing.

Ousted, following a long investigation by President George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of professional baseball leagues were:
Bernard DeForge, pitcher-manager of the Reidsville, N.C. club who Trautman said admitted throwing a game for $300: and

Ed Weingarten, an official of the Florence, S.C. club of the Tri-State League and Leaksville, N.C. of the Blue Ridge Loop, who denied all connection with game-throwing incident.

Trautman said the investigation centered around the May 14 game at Winston-Salem, which the club won from Reidsville by 5 to 0. Trautman said he opened the inquiry because of reports that that heavy gambling had taken place on the basis that Winston-Salem would win by three runs or more: that "a known gambler had been talking to DeForge while hew as warming up, that there was no logical reason fro the relief of Pitcher Abernathy, and that DeForge had issued bases on ball in order to assure defeat of his team by at least three runs."

In the game at the end of seven and one-half innings with Winston-Salem leading 2-0, DeForge removed Tal Abernathy and took over the mound himself. He walked four men and heaved a wild pitch. Winston-Salem winning 5 to 0 on three unearned runs.

After the game, Trautman said DeForge admitted he received $300 from "one W.C. McWaters."

Weingarten, after denying all connection with the Winston-Salem incident when called before Trautman Tuesday, repeated his denial after DeForge had repeated his accusations while facing him.

The minor league prexy also fined Phil Lundeen, president of the Reidsville Club, $500 for failing to report that two of the club stockholders, named Brady and Smothers, also hold stock in the Florence club of the Tri-State League. The fine was suspended but payable if Lundeen is guilty of another lapse, Trautman said.

The New York Times
2 June 1948

Baseball Bans Pitcher-Manager And Minor League Official For Life: Trautman Acts In Alleged "Game-Throwing By DeForge, Reidsville Hurler—North Carolina Criminal Trial Possible

Columbus, Ohio, June 1 – Baseball banned for life today a minor league official and pitcher-manager on charge of bribery, gambling and game-throwing.

The Independent – St. Petersburg, Florida
3 June 1948

Alleged Baseball Fixers Held On Bribery Charges

Roanoke, Va. – Ed Weingarten, owner of the Leaksville, N.C. club in the Blue Ridge league and a shareholder in the Florence, South Carolina club in the Tri-State League, was arrested at a hotel here this morning.

Detective Captain W.R. Burke of Winston-Salem, N.C. made the arrest. Weingarten waived extradition, Capt. Burke said. Burke said Weingarten was arrested on a Bribery charge in connection with an alleged gambling coup at a Carolina league baseball game in Winston-Salem May 14.

Bernard DeForge, manager of the Reidsville, North Carolina team and Weingarten were banned from baseball for life by Minor League commissioner George Trautman Tuesday after an investigation into the alleged "game fixing."

DeForge was arrested in Winston-Salem last night in a bribery charge and was released on $1,000 bond.

Authorities claim a gambling syndicate has been operating in three North Carolina cities, betting on and fixing baseball games.

The New York Times
20 October 1948

Banned Hurler Testifies; Reidsville Player-Pilot Tells How He "Threw" Game
Winston-Salem, N.C., Oct., 19 – Bernard DeForge took the stand today to tell a Forsyth Superior Court jury of plans leading up to the "throwing" of a Carolina League baseball game here last May 14.

The New York Times
21 October 1948
Bribe Accusations Denied: McWaters Impugns Testimony Of Game-Throwing Pitcher
Winston-Salem, N.C., Oct. 20 – W.C. McWaters today denied the testimony of former minor league baseball manager that he had been bribed by McWaters to "throw" a game here last spring.

The New York Times
22 October 1948
Gets Year In Bribe Case; DeForge Convicted Of "Throwing" Game In Carolina League

Bernard V. DeForge was born 23 June 1917 in New Jersey and died 28 December, 1998 at Hermitage, Davidson County, Tn.

26 May 1938 – Superiors Barney DeForge struck out 15 Eau Claire batter's during a 5-4 victory.

Barney DeForge was the manager of Natchez Giants of the Evangeline League which had a record of 58 won and 76 lost.

23 July 1938 – Superior opened the new $70,000 park before a crowd of 2,000. The Blues Barney DeForge threw a four-hitter with 13 strike outs for a 5-1 win over Wausau.

The following is from the book "Separating The Men From The Boys, The First Half-Century of the Carolina League by Jim L. Sumner.

Among the Possibilities mention for replacing Leaksville(as a team in the Carolina League) was Charlotte, then a member of the Tri-State League. North Carolina's largest city would continue to be mentioned as a possibility for the Carolina League for years to come, but the move never happened, largely because of the city's relative distance. High Point and Sanford were also mentioned. The final result was considerably more mundane than Charlotte. The Leaksville franchise moved only a few miles down the road to equally small tobacco town of Reidsville. The team was named the Luckies in honor of Lucky Strike cigarettes, one of the town's leading products. In a league where other nicknames over the years have included the Bulls (from Bull Durham Chewing tobacco), the Leafs and the Tobacconists, the Luckies were right at home. Nonetheless, it's hard not to think that the Carolina League missed a great chance to move into a bigger neighborhood

Most baseball fans are familiar with the so-called Black Sox scandal of 1919, in which eight members of the Chicago White Sox accepted money from gamblers to throw the World Series, and the recent controversy surrounding Pete Rose's gambling activities. Baseball gambling critics have not been restricted to the major leagues, of course. The Carolina League faced one tawdry such episode in 1948,

The principal figure was Reidsville Luckies manager-pitcher, Barney DeForge. On May 10, DeForge met at a Reidsville hotel (Belvedere) with W.C. McWaters, a Greensboro man and Ed Weingarten, an official with the nearby Leaksville team of the Blue Ridge League. The three discussed the possibility of gambling and the money that could be made from the activity. Four days later, McWaters offered DeForge $300 to make sure that his team lost that night's game against Winston-Salem by at least three runs. DeForge accepted.

DeForge place himself on the mound in the eighth inning of the contest with club trailing 2-0. He then proceeded in giving up three more runs on four walks and a wild pitch, ensuring a 5-0 loss.

That night, an unidentified fan went to the office of Winston-Salem journal sports editor Frank Spencer and told him that he had overheard talk in the stands that the game was fixed. Winston-officials began investigating and within days, DeForge confessed.

The reaction of National Association president George Trautman was quick and decisive. Only three year earlier, predecessor, William G. Bramham had issued a lifetime ban against a dozen men for throwing games in the Evangeline League. Trautman's response was identical. DeForge and Weingarten were banned from baseball for life.

(1948) Despite the heroics of Sullivan, Cooper, Morgan and others, the league's Player of the Year was Reidsville southpaw Lewis Hester who won 25 games against 13 losses. Hester set a league record for wins in a single season, a spectacular accomplishment for a team that won only 57 games. While little offense Reidsville produced was supplied by Dick Sipek (.318), Bob Downing (.304) and Bill Nagel (.313, 28, 120), who finished the season with Reidsville after being fired as the Raleigh Manager. The hearing-impaired Sipek had played in the major leagues

(1949) The rest of the league responded by firing managers. Reidsville dismissed Johnny George on May 2. Around the same time, it signed working agreements with the lowly St. Louis Browns, which didn't do it much good. The other teams followed suit in firing skippers. Before the season ended, every team except Danville, Durham and last-place Martinsville changed Managers. One of those moves helped the Leafs. On June 12, Winston-Salem fired player-manager Willie Duke. Danville picked up "Wee Willie" who ended the season with a .349 average, 22 homers, and 106 RBIs.

Even with an apparent runaway, fans had plenty to get excited about in the exploits of 32-year-old Reidsville first baseman, Leo "Muscle" Shoals, one of he most exciting players in Carolina League history. A powerfully built left-handed first-baseman, Shoals was definitely a major league-caliber, hitter. Unfortunately, an affliction for parties and propensity for getting into trouble kept him in the minors permanently.

Shoals hit 14 home runs in the first 40 games and never let up. On June 12, he slugged three home runs, a double and a single against Greensboro, amassing a league record 15 total bases. Shoals hit three home runs and a single on August 25 in a 20-8 win of Burlington. He scored six runs and drove in six in that game in which Reidsville scored 10 runs in the sixth inning in that game to overcome an 8-4 deficit. Shoals finished the season with a .359 batting average, 55 home runs, 131 runs batted in and 365 total bases. He received his share of $100 handshakes from Reidsville supporters late in the season, gave him a "Muscle Shoals night", during which he received, in his own words "a truck load of gifts." He had the chance finish the season with St. Louis Browns, but turned it down because his wife was expecting a child in October.

Reidsville and Martinsville demonstrated the adage that pitching is three-fourths of baseball. Both featured formidable batting attacks, but poor pitching doomed them to miserable seasons.

Led by Shoals, Reidsville batted .278 with 132 home runs. Outfielder Dick Sipek batted .321, outfielder Jim Millar hit .319 and third baseman George Souter hit 25 homers and collected 99 RBIs. Reidsville only solid pitcher was "Magic" Mike Forline (19-9, 2.33, 5 shutouts).

(1950) With a one-side pennant race, league fans turned their attention to other attractions. One was the return to Reidsville of Muscle Shoals. After his spectacular 1949 season, Shoals was signed by the Cincinnati Reds organization and assigned to Columbia of the South Atlantic League. He disappeared for several days on a road trip to Jacksonville and was released. Reidsville quickly signed him, but Shoals was unable to duplicate the magic of 1949. He split time at first base with Bill Nagel and batted only .224 with five homers and 16 RBIs.

(1950) In the first round of the playoffs, Winston-Salem squared off against fourth place Reidsville, managed by the always-mobile Herb Brett. Unaffiliated with any big league team, the Luckies had a number of Carolina League veterans including Shoals, third baseman George Souter (.291), first baseman Bill Nagel (.290, 19, 85), and pitchers Joe Micich (18-8) and Mike Forline. Mizell and Tiefneauer staked Winston-Salem lead over the Luckies, but Reidsville won the next two games to even the best-of-five series. The

suddenly pressed Cards, won the fifth game easily, however, by an 11-2 score, with Mizell getting the victory.

(1951) The independent Reidsville Luckies drew first blood, winning 13 0f their first 18 games and leading most of the first half of the campaign. The fast start was keyed by pitcher Mike Forline (21-8, 2.83) and outfielder Carl Miller (.311, 28, 114). On May 24, Forline threw a one-hit shutout against Durham. The following day, Miller began a memorable streak when he got a hit in his last two at-bats against the Bulls. He then went six for six on May 26 against Winston-Salem, with two home runs, two doubles, and seven runs batted in. When he singled in his first at bat the following day, Miller had hit safely in nine consecutive trips to the plate. Forline and Miller were supported by outfielder Dick Sipek (.322) and third baseman George Souter (.283, 15, 74).

(1952) None of Raleigh's rivals could put a sustained run together, however. No one got closer than four games before the Caps clinched first place on August 28. They then lost their last five games, ending the season 2-½ games ahead of Durham. Winston-Salem edged Reidsville for third place, while early leaders Greensboro and Raleigh finished out of the playoffs.

The regular season champions started the playoffs in bad shape, they were minus the heart of their infield. Light-hitting but strong fielding shortstop Bob Richardson broke his hand on August 7 and missed the remainder of the season, including the playoffs. Crash Davis left the team in late August to resume a teaching position in Gastonia. The wound Caps opened with Reidsville, the leagues other independent. The Luckies were managed by outfielder Ralph Hodgin, who had played for several major league clubs. Hogdin skippered a team which included outfielder Joe Pancoe (.304, 19, 85), slick-fielding shortstop, Walter "Teapot" Frye, George Souter and pitching standout Mike Forline).

Grateful Raleigh fans presented Manager Brett with a new Studerbaker as the Caps opened the playoffs at home. Ben Roseman rewarded Brett with superb mound performance, which Reidsville's Mike Forline matched. The two pitching aces exchanged scoreless innings until the eighth when Souter doubled in Hodgin with the games only run. Reidsville won the second game 3-2, scoring single runs in each of the last two innings. When Souter won game three 5-3 with a two-run homber in the 10th inning. Reidsville had won three straight nail-biters, and another regular-season champion had bit the dust.

The other first-round series pitted the Bulls against Winston-Salem. The Cards had some fine players, including first baseman Paul Owens (.338, 11, 105), outfielder Karol Kwak (.306) and pitcher Lee Peterson (19-6, 1.94). They were no match for the Bulls, however, who swept the series in three straight. In the opener, crafty southpaw Eddie Neville (17-9, 1.72) threw a five hit shutout, got three hits, and drove in five runs. This was reminiscent of a Neville performance on August 29, when he blanked Greensboro for 18 innings before doubling and scoring the only run in a 1-0 victory.

Thought the Bull's had the league's leading hitter, outfielder, Emil Karlik, (.347,17,93, 35 doubles, 31 stolen bases), along with outfielder Charles "Chick" King (.315), they never had much of a chance against the rampaging Reidsville Luckies, who swept Durham and ran their postseason record to a perfect seven for seven. Forline

got Reidsville off on the right foot by beating Neville 7-0 in the opener. Ken Deal then threw a three-hitter to win the second game 2-0. Jack Sanford went three for four to lead Reidsville in a 6-5 win in the third game. Forline beat Neville again in the fourth contest to give Reidsville its only Carolina League title. Reidsville overcame a 3-2 deficit in the final game by scoring single runs in the eighth and ninth for a 4-3 victory, Souter doubled in the game winner.

(1953) The first round of playoffs matched Reidsville with the regular season champions from Raleigh, and again Reidsville pulled the upset. The Luckies had some familiar names, including player manager Ralph Hodgin (.303), outfielder Jack Mitchell (.326, 52 stolen bases), first baseman Jack Sanford (.324) and pitcher Joe Micich and Mike Forline. Micich beat Raleigh 4-2 in the opener, as Al Spaziano two-out, two run double in the top of the eighth produced the winning runs. Raleigh won the second game 1-0, with Lunsford Lewis outdueling Forline. Rossman won game three for the Caps, but Reidsville even the series in game four as Micich pitched a six-hitter and hit an eighth inning grand-slam home run. The fifth game was anticlimactic. Raleigh shortstop Johnny Edwards booted a double play in the fourth inning, leading to 10 Reidsville runs. When the Luckies held on for a 12-6 win, it marked the seventh time in eight years that the regular-season champion had not won the playoffs

Danville jumped on top of Reidsville in the opener of the championship series as Monzant threw a 1-0 shutout. Reidsville even the series in game two behind Ken Deal, setting the stage for the memorable third game. Reidsville Manager Ralph Hodgin hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth to give the visitors a 6-5 lead. His Danville counterpart, And Gilbert, tied the game in the bottom of ninth before Chuck Allen homered for 7-6 Danville Victory. Ironically, Gilbert, who had homered earlier, was playing only because White jumped ship, citing a need to begin college classes in Ohio. Forline defeated Monzant to even the series at 2-2. Danville won the fifth game 3-2, scoring the winning run in the bottom of the ninth on doubles by catcher George Lefclar and center fielder John Hafenecker. The Leafs captured their first Carolina League title since 1945 worth a 14-hit 10-6 win in game six.

(1953) After the season, Reidsville shortstop, Walter Frye retired to take a position at Oak Ridge Military Institute. In his seven Carolina League seasons, Frye set till-standing career league records with 953 games played, 3,629 at bats, and 929 hits.

(1954) Reidsville suffered it worst season since 1948. The Luckies had some decent hitters, but poor pitching. Mike Forline ended his Career League Career with a League record 89 wins. The first part of 1954, Mike Forline played semi-pro baseball in Faribault, MN where George Souter also played for several weeks. The cool temperatures made it difficult for Forline's to pitch there and returned to Reidsville and the Luckies in July. He pitched eight games for the Luckies and retired from professional baseball at the end of the season.

Glenn E. Rawlinson 205-982-9108
4041 Saddle Run Circle
Pelham, AL 35124 Talked to Glenn on 09-06-04 was sick – had been in Hospital

Glenn started out his baseball career with the Birmingham Barons of the Southern League during the 1943 and 1944 Seasons. A teammate of his at Birmingham was Dick Sipek who would later be a teammate with him during 1949 in Reidsville with the Luckies. 1945 and 1946 were spent in Military service. He returned to the Birmingham team in 1947 and then played there again in 1948. He joined the Reidsville Luckies for the 1949 season and was traded to the Raleigh Caps during the 1950 for Crash Davis, the all-star second baseman from the 1949 season. Glenn played the 1950 and 1951 seasons in Raleigh and then returned to the Birmingham area where he took a job in chemical Lab and worked there until he retired

Bob Downing
6645 NC HWY 902
Pittsboro, N.C. 27312-7333 919-542-3713 Wrote to him in Sept 2004

Mr. Dallas, Sept 3, 2004

Received your letter about the Reidsville baseball team. I was married in Reidsville but my wife was born in Chatham County, N.C. I will help you anyway I can. The players I kept in touch with were Lew Hester and Dean Frye, both of them have died. They married Reidsville girls. We had a good hitting team in 1949. I broke my leg in Greensboro that same year. Lewis Arroyo was pitching that day. He later pitched with the N.Y. Yankees. I will be glad to give you any other information I can. My telephone number is 919-542-2713. Will sign any baseball. Bob Downing

Mr. Dallas, Sept 17, 2004

Thank you for the information you sent about the Reidsville Luckies.

(1) I played high school ball in Needham, Mass., 1940, 1941, 1942. After graduation I joined the US Navy, served from 1942 to 1945. Red Gardner who played for Reidsville also went to the same high school.
(2) In 1947 I played for the Leaksville Triplets who were in the Carolina League.
(3) Got traded in 1950 to Raleigh for Crash Davis.
(4) Went to spring training in St. Augustine 1947, 1948 went to Rockingham, N.C.
(5) After my leg was broke, I left and went to my wife's home. Worked in a Hosiery Mill from 1951 to 1986.
(6) Played in a game in Winston-Salem in 1948 where our manager, Barney DeForge, threw a game.

I wish I knew where some of the players live. I was close to Dean Frye who married a girl in Reidsville, also Lou Hester. Both have died. Thank you again for the letters. If you know anymore, let me know.

Sincerely
Bob Downing

The Winston Salem Journal
2 June 1948

The Story Of Baseball Scandal Breaks

It was near the midnight deadline on the night of Friday, May 14, when an excited fan rushed into the Journal Sports Department and said:
"I think you ought to do something about the game tonight."

That was the start of an investigation which was to lead into two states, disclose an amazing gambling coup, and finally throw two well-known baseball men out of the sport on charges of bribery, game-throwing and gambling.

Then, an amazing story of huge gambling stakes, placed in the bleachers section at Southside Park, was related.

Two members of the Winston Salem club, who had drifted into the office to scan the late baseball scores, George Sawyers, Charlotte Central High's net coach, who was talking tennis and basketball and the Journal sports staff, Bob Hampton and Wes Hayden and the sports writer were present when the fan told his story of the game.

The two players left immediately and made an effort to contact Himsl about the matter, but Himsl had gone to his home.

The fan with the desire for honest sports had told his story-a story with little evidence but enough to start the ball rolling which was to prove the "biggest thing which has developed on Trautman's office since he took over" in the words of an investigator from the minor league headquarters.

After hearing the story, Vedie Himsl, business manager of the Winston-Salem club was contacted. It was late at night, too late for an investigation at the time, but early the next morning Vedie and the writer were "out" trying to find out just what did happen at Southside Park on the night of May 14.

Several interviews brought enough evidence that a gambling coup had been made at the park for the information to be presented to the proper baseball authorities.

It Wasn't Just A Loser's Squawk

One thing that the preliminary investigation here did show was that the protest made by the fan who brought the story to the Journal for investigation was an honest desire to keep baseball clean.

The fan, it has been learned , did not bet on the game but as he put it;
"I take my little son to baseball games and I don't want anything crooked to happen. I talked it over with my wife and she said to come and see you."

It wasn't the squawk of a loser in the coup but a fellow who sat in the bleachers and saw what went on during the evening.

Vedie Himsl and I both received telephone calls last week from an unidentified person who insisted that the gambler stated in the case was "shooting straight." The hints could change the picture of what was to be a very sordid story.

It was only a matter of hours later that DeForge confessed his part in the case which was to take its place along with other black chapters in sports history.

Baseball Must Remain Honest At Any Price

The national pastime of baseball must remain honest, no mater what the price, or where the chips fall.

Faith is the honesty in baseball has made it the national pastime and will keep it such a position.

There has been incidents in baseball which would have reflected on the sport but for the firm and convincing manner in which officials have dealt with the cases.

The first big scandal in baseball history led to the organization of the sport under the proper leadership and the National League was founded.

Back in 1875 to quote Franke Menke's history of baseball "There was a great deal of betting on the outcome of the contests. The failure players to hit in the pinches and the making of errors, when such blunders meant runs for the opposition, hurt the sport. The 1875 season ended with the game in disrepute and its future clouded with charges dishonesty and corruption. In such a dismal hour, the National League succeeded the floundering professional organization and salvaged the sport from the wreckage."

Then in 1920, the biggest of baseball scandals broke. Eighth Chicago White Sox were charged with "throwing" the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds.

The evidence which developed in this case involving well-known gamblers of that era brought the banishment of eighth Chicago players from baseball. They were Joe Jackson, Eddie Cicoltte, "Chick" Gandil, "Lefty" Williams, "Swedie" Rusberg, "Buck" Weaver, "Happy" Felch and McMullen, the latter a utility infielder.

Out the wreckage of the White Sox came a baseball commissioner-Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis.

Charles Comiskey, the Ol' Roman, when informed of the scandal tore his famous Chicago team apart and never expressed regret for the loss of the team termed by many of that day still one of baseball's greatest!

Landis dealt with baseball firmly and restored a confidence in the sport with the public.

Bramham's Last Act Was To Ban Gamblers

William G. Bramham succeeded to the head of the minor leagues a few years after Landis took office as commissioner for the majors. One of Bramham's last acts was to deal firmly with gambling in baseball.

It was during his last year that the scandal in the Evangeline league "broke." From his home at Durham, N.C. Bramham directed an investigation which was to rule almost a dozen men out of baseball including club owners, players and "bookies" who posed as players in the Louisiana League.

The last report of gambling brought just as harsh verdict. Hooper Triplett, a native of North Carolina's Northwest Mountains near Boone was involved in a betting scandal while playing with Columbus of the South Atlantic League.

Hooper admitted betting on his own team in a contest. Kemp Whicker of Kernersville, manager of Columbus, filed a quick report on the matter and Triplett was ruled out of baseball.

The conviction that the leadership of baseball would keep the sport clean and that dishonesty will not be tolerated will keep the sport as the national pastime.

The faith in baseball's honesty must be maintained for the fans-for the kids-and the sport itself.

Trautman, Brown and the men involved in the investigation of this case are to be commended for their work. They are the men to whom the public looks for protection in the national pastime.

Officials who witnessed the Winston-Salem-Reidsville game May 14 said a man in the stands was making heavy bets that Winston-Salem would win by more than two runs. While Winston-Salem was leading by a score of 2-0 in the last half of the eighth inning, they reported, DeForge took out Pitcher Ted Abnernathy and went to the mound himself.

Game records show DeForge walked four consecutive batters and Winston-Salem scored three runs to win 5-0.

Reidsville officials said they identified the gambler, but Trautman ruled the National Association had no jurisdiction over persons "not directly associated with professional baseball."

The Reidsville Review, 2 June 1948

Police Step Into Baseball Gambling, Bribery Case

DeForge and Weingarten Banned For Life From Organized Baseball

WINSTSON-SALEM, N.C., June 2 – Police stepped into the case of the "thrown" Carolina League Baseball game today after a player-manager who confessed to taking a bribe and a club official he implicated were banned from the sport for life.

Minor League Commissioner George Trautman blew the lid off the newest gambling scandal to cloud the baseball scene when he announced that Bernard DeForge, pitcher-manager of the Reidsville, N.C. club, had admitted receiving $300 for throwing a game against Winston-Salem May 14 and charged Ed Weingarten, Secretary treasurer of Florence, S.C. of the Tri-State League with being in on the coup.

Trautman, in addition to placing both on the "permanently inegible list," demanded criminal action under a North Carolina law which calls for one to five years imprisonment for accepting or offering a bribe in a baseball game.

Police were quick to follow through. Chief John Gold of the Winston-Salem force said he already had detailed facts on the case and was continuing as extenive investigation.

Gold point out however, that a criminal case would require more evidence than a baseball probe. "I couldn't say what action might be taken," he said. "That will depend on the facts we uncover."

Meanwhile Charlotte N.C. police revealed they were checking into reports of a gambling coup on May 16 Tri-State League game between Charlotte and Florence. Chief Frank Littlejohn said he had no definite evidence into reports of the gambling coup as yet.

Trautman from his office in Columbus, O., said that DeForge made his "confession" after prolonged questions.

Under DeForge's admissions as his source, the Minor Leagues Commissioner reconstructed the story this way:

Several days before the May 14 game DeForge, Weingarten and a man identified as W.C. McWaters met at the Hotel Belvedere in Reidsville and discussed "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games." It was agreed that McWaters would "contact" DeForge at the proper time.

Meanwhile reports reached Trautman's office that Winston-Salem would win by at least three runs May 14 and that DeForge was talking with a well-known gambler while he was warming up.

After seven and a half innings of play in the game, with Winston-Salem leading 2-0, DeForge relieved Pitcher Tal Abnernathy.

The Winston Salem Journal

3 June 1948

DeForge Arrested On Bribery County

Bernard "Barney" DeForge , former manger of the Reidsville Club of the Carolina League was arrested last night on the charge of bribery in a game which he admitted "throwing" here May 14th.

Winston Salem police issued the warrant for the arrest of DeForge as they pressed their investigation of heavy gambling at the game and reports of a betting syndicate operating in the North Carolina Cities.

DeForge, who with Ed Weingarten, official of two minor league clubs was banned from baseball Tuesday as the result of a sweeping investigation, conducted by George M. Trautman of Columbus, Ohio, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, was released under $1,000 fine.

Returns From Columbus

The former Reidsville skipper returned yesterday from Columbus. He went voluntarily to the police department and conferred with Chief of Police, John M. Gold and Captain of Detectives W.R. Burke for more than five hours.

DeForge repeated the confession that he received $300 from "W.C. McWaters" for "throwing" the game which Winston-Salem won, 5 t0 0.

Chief Gold said last night that DeForge offered the police full co-operation in delving into the sordid story of gambling, bribery and game throwing.

DeForge was accompanied here by agent Bob Allen of the State Bureau of Investigation which has been working with Winston-Salem police in the case.

Chief Gold talked with several Winston-Salem baseball fans last night in connection with the investigation.

Article 31

DeForge was charged with bribery under Article 31 of the North Carolina Stature on "the protection of the game of baseball."

The stature reads:

"Stature 14-374 Acceptance of bribery by baseball players comprise of officials-If any baseball player shall accept or agree to accept a bribe offered for the purpose of influencing his play, action or conduct in any baseball game shall accept or agree to accept a bribe offered for the purpose of influencing his decision or biasing his opinion, rulings or judgment, or if any manager of a baseball club or club or league official shall accept or agree to accept any bribe offered for the purpose inducing him to lose or cause to be lost any baseball game as set forth in Stature 14-373 of this article, such baseball player, manager, official or umpire shall be guilty of felony and upon conviction shall be punished by confinement in the state penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than five years."

The law was passed in 1921 and this one section of several statures covering bribery in connection with baseball.

"I'm going to try my best to do everything I can for baseball. I am more disappointed than the fans in the whole thing."

"I don't know why I did it. I just thought I was smart. After I had walked one man in the game, it unnerved me so. I repented after that one time-the rest of the story has been told," DeForge said.

Says Consciences Is Clear

"My conscience is clear now. As long it is clear with God and myself, I don't fear anyone."

DeForge said that he knew Weingarten "casually" when he was stationed at Greensboro ORD, but that he did not meet him until he was approached last Fall about taking the managerial job at Reidsville.

As to his future, DeForge said that he would not think of that until after "this thing" is cleared up.

"Baseball has been my life," he added. Meanwhile baseball news growing out of expulsion of DeForge and Weingarten from the sport developed rapidly.

Trautman Lauds Players

George Truatman said at Columbus that the hoped that the banning of the two men from organized baseball would not reflect unfavorable on the sport.

"After all we have 18,000 players in the minor leagues and the expulsion of two men was hardly typical.

"There are thousands and thousands of boys above reproach in the minor leagues." Trautman said, " The fact two persons were banned in no way should be an indictment of the game, but rather it should be evidence that all the players and officials are making every effort to rid baseball of anyone guilty of infractions of the rules.'

"There is no middle ground. Public confidence must be maintained."

First Official Banned

Trautman pointed out that Weingarten was the first club official in the 47-year's history of the association to be banned on such a charge.

Trautman added, "The absence of such cases in the past is quite a commendable record."

Only one other player has been banned by Trautman since he took the helm of minor league as successor to the late Judge William G. Bramham, Jan. 1, 1947. Outfielder Allen Mclreath of the Muskogee, Ok. Club of the Western Association was accused of contributing to the "throwing" of a game.

Charlotte officials with rumors running wild concerning a game between the Hornets and Florence in the Tri-State League, denied heatedly yesterday that their club had ever been involved in a "fix."

Charlotte Club Exonerated

Business Manager Phil Howser denied that the Charlotte Club ever had been connected "even in conversation" with any frame up. Howser's statement came after Charlotte Police Chief Frank Littlejohn asserted that he had assigned two officers to investigate reports of heavy betting at the Florence-Charlotte game in the Queen City, May 16. Littlejohn said that the investigations revealed no evidence of a "fix."

Charlotte won the game 4-2. Ed Davis pitched nine hit ball for the Hornets to decision Cuban Pitcher Amilo Diaz, who allowed the Bees with only six hits.

"The Charlotte club has never been implicated in any way in the investigation." Howser said. ".....I don't like it at all that the Charlotte players or management should have been mentioned with the investigation.

Llewellyn Discounts Rumors

Manley Llewellyn, president of the Tri-State League at . home said:

"The week after the Winston Salem deal (the thrown game May 14) Charlotte gamblers started rumors about a thrown game in Charlotte May 16. But game figures and statistics don't stack up; It was one of the best games of the year. All we had to go on was rumors started by the gamblers themselves."

The Charlotte News said yesterday that among the rumors was one story in which one gambler reportedly made a haul of $15,000.

Outfielder Disappears

One interesting development was reported from Florence, S.C. where club President Willis Gregory said yesterday that Connie Creedon, right fielder of the Florence club left the team Tuesday night without notice.

Weingarten, majority stockholder of the club, obtained Creedon a month ago from the House of David Team. The outfielder, 34 years of age is from Port Chester, N.Y. and was batting .346. He was with the Boston Braves during the war.

Gregory also announce that Jess Plumner who pitched for Greensboro several years ago would be temporary manager of the club.

At Reidsville, where DeForge managed the club until he was banned from baseball, Phil Lundeen, president and business manager, announced that Tal Abernathy, left-handed pitcher, who has directed the club since DeForge's suspension will continue as skipper.

Lundeen praised the way in which Abernathy has handled the club since DeForge was relieved of his duties.

The Greensboro Daily News
3 Jun 1948

Luckies' Fans Mighty Sore: Team Spirited

Reidsville-What happened at Barney Forge's "home" ball park tonight." Well, "his" Reidsville Luckies won themselves another ball game and it took eleven innings to beat the Raleigh Caps. It moved the Luckies a half game out of third place.

Guy McWhorter, a veteran ball player himself, pinch hitting for Official Scorer Bill Hall at tonight's game, summarized the fans' view point as follows:

Well, the fans couldn't believe that of DeForge. From the time the runner started, they were behind him and so was the team, 100 per cent. But now that he has confessed to throwing the game, the fans are sore at him. The players are, too. They don't care to see him anymore. The team remains in good spirits. They're out there to keep winning.

Mrs. DeForge left their apartment here last week. Their home is in Jersey City, New Jersey.

DeForge today was banned for life from professional ball for throwing the Winston-Salem-Reidsville game May 14, the National Association of Professional Baseball League stated.

June 1948

McWaters Surrenders In Baseball Bribery Case

Used Car Dealer Under Bond

W.C. McWaters, Clover, S.C. used car dealer, surrendered to Charlotte police yesterday and was served with a warrant charging bribery growing out of the "throwing" of a Carolina League baseball game at Southside Park here May 14.

McWaters surrendered to Chief of Police Frank Littlejohn of Charlotte at 2:30 p.m. and was released under a $3,000 appearance bond. The bond was signed by Roy H. Davis of Charlotte, a used car dealer.

The arrest of McWaters is the third in the investigation of bribery, gambling and game-throwing which grew out of the Winston-Salem-Reidsville game here.

Bernard "Barney" DeForge, former manager-player of the Reidsville club and Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, former owner of two minor league clubs were arrested earlier on bribery charges and are at liberty under bond.

Police Here Notified

Chief Littlejohn notified Winston-Salem police of the arrest late yesterday afternoon. . Although Winston-Salem authorities had requested that the preliminary hearing be set for June 10. Chief Littlejohn set it for June 21.

The Charlotte police chief said that the latter date was requested by McWaters. Charlotte police learned that McWaters was accompanied by counsel, but that the attorney did not enter police headquarters.

McWaters made contact with the Charlotte police chief earlier in the day, notifying him that he would appear at the police station at 2:30 p.m. and requesting that no pictures be made nor questions asked at the meeting.

Refuses to Talk

When approached by a Charlotte newspaperman, McWaters shrugged his shoulders, grinned and made no replies to questions.

McWaters was described by Chief Littlejohn as "a rather educated man." He appeared about 42 or 44 years of age, was of medium height, the Charlotte police chief said.

Chief Littlejohn said that he received a telephone call about 3:30 a.m. yesterday from a man saying he was McWaters. This man said he had heard that there was a warrant for his arrest and asked for the amount of the bond. He told the chief that he would surrender.

The Greensboro Daily News
2 Jun 1948

Reidsville-Dean Frye doubled off the left field fence scoring Fred Musumeci in the bottom of the 11th inning here last night to give the Luckies a 6-5 triumph over the Raleigh Caps.

Reidsville scored twice in their half of the sixth to deadlock the count at 5-all and neither team could muster scoring power in the next four innings.

But in the 11th, Musumeci got on by error, advanced on Joe Trotta's single and then scampered home as Frye gave the ball a free ride to the left field wall.

Reidsville Review
3 Jun 1948
Capitals Win 5-4

Manage Bill Nagel of Raleigh Capitols believes in stopping a rally before it gets started, so he used three pitchers last night to scatter seven Reidsville hits and the Caps won 5-4.

Nagel's homerun in the first frame with two aboard dud the damage giving the Caps a three run lead with only one down. Jordan homered in the top half of the third to make it 4-0.

In the bottom half of the third Abernathy went in to pinch hit for Fernandez. He delivered a single over second and went on to score the Luckies first run. He finished the game on the mound and held the Capitals to one more run and the Luckies couldn't quite close the gap.

Bob Downing with two for four, led the Reidsville lads at the plate. Nagel was the big gun in the Raleigh attack, banging out three for five.

It was Tal Abernathy's first game as manager of the Luckies. The Reidsville pitcher had been acting manager since DeForge was summoned to Columbus a few days ago, but yesterday afternoon, Phil Lundeen announced that Abernathy is the new Reidsville skipper. Abernathy is an experienced minor league pitcher. He joined the Leaksville Triplets last year after pitching a few years for the Memphis Chicks of the Southern Association. He is an Elon College graduate and his home is in Mebane, N.C.

Tonight and Friday night the Luckies will play the Winston-Salem Cardinals in South Side Park in Winston-Salem. Saturday the Luckies return home to play. The first game Saturday begins at 3 p.m. The second contest will begin at 8 p.m.

Winston Salem Journal
3 June 1948

Leaksville Club Franchise Forfeited By Loop Directors

Roanoke, Va.-The franchise of Leaksville, N.C. in the Class D Blue Ridge League was declared forfeited yesterday by league directors at a meeting here.

Stanley Radke, circuit president, said action was taken because Ed Weingarten, owner of the Leaksville club, had been banned from baseball by Minor League Commissioner, George Trautman.

Radke said Blue Ridge League would take over the Leaksville Club and operate it until the club is disposed of. Radke will personal supervision over operation of the team.

Both Weingarten and Bernard DeForge, pitcher manager of the Reidsville, N.C. Carolina Loop entry, were barred from baseball for life by Trautman Tuesday. Trautman said DeForge had admitted accepting $300 for throwing a game with Winston Salem on May 14th and had implicated Weingarten in the matter.

Weingarten attended yesterday's meeting of league directors and denied that he had any part in the incident. He told the board he was filing an appeal with the baseball executive committee and expected his case to come up for consideration about June 11th.

Weingarten declared he was in Greensboro, N.C. "the time DeForge claims he and a mysterious Mr. McWaters were talking to me in a Reidsville Hotel." He said that he had "plenty of proof" that he had been in Greensboro.

In addition to Radke, the following directors were present at yesterday's meeting: Sam Griggs and Hubert White, Galax; Tal Pierson and Larry Moore, North Wilkesboro; Mikey Winters, Wytheville; John Spiers and Southall Jordan, Radford; Dr. Otis Oliver and Dr, Carl Thomas, Mt. Airy.

Luckies Get Only One Man To 2d Base

May 1948

Lean and Lanky Jack Frisinger, Card's southpaw ace who found himself with a one-hit pitching job Monday night, returned to the wars last night by rocking Reidsville back with two-hit master piece as the Red Birds grabbed the series opener before 2,191 chilled spectators at Southside Park.

Frisinger gave up two singles and a pair of base on balls, let only one Luckie runner reach second, and worked out the nine innings with only two enemy hitters being stranded on the paths.

Working as smoothly as the grandfather clock on the stairs, Jack gave up a single to Dean Frye in the second, another "Texas leaguer" to Fred Musumeci in the sixth and walked Bob Downing and Bob Mitchell after two men had been retired in the eighth.

Greensboro Daily News
3 June 1948

Officials At Reidsville Name Abernathy Pilot

DeForge Confers With Winston Police; Weingarten to Appeal

Baseball's greatest state, with 43 teams playing organized ball, cussed and discussed the biggest story of the year yesterday, the banning of Barney DeForge and Manny Weingarten. But on the heels of that the Leaksville fans discover their franchise forfeited and the Reidsville fans applaud a new manager.

The Blue Ridge League meeting at Roanoke yesterday with President Stanley Radke, took over the Leaksville franchise to be operated by the league president from the league treasury---until it could be disposed of.

Weingarten, who resides in Greensboro and was formerly general manager of the Patriots here, had been majority stockholder of the Leaksville club.

In Reidsville the Carolina Leagues club's officials returned from the hearing of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. Tom Smothers, one of the two major stockholders, did not go to Columbus, Ohio as previously reported. President Phil Lundeen and Pat Brady, another major stockholder, returned yesterday.

The Luckies, a first division club, was left without a manager, but Lundeen quickly answered that question: "Tal Abernathy has the job; He has been acting manager for two weeks during all the discussion, and had done an excelent job. The players like him, the fans like him. Tal will be our permanent manager.

The left-handed pitcher, a former Elon College star who is a veteran of professional ball, took over the club on May 17th when DeForge was first called to Columbus. Except for one brief night, he has been actively running the Luckies ever since. During that time the team has won 12 of 16 games and has been a definite contender for first place. Abernathy's home is Mebane.

DeForge Appears

Meanwhile police action progressed at Winston-Salem and at Charlotte, where another investigation over a Charlotte-Florence game was under way. Statutes of the state of North Carolina call for imprisonment penalty for "fixing" a ball game.

DeForge, the Luckies player manager who the National Association's office said confessed to throwing a league game at Winston-Salem May 14th, was in Winston yesterday conferring with police authorities there. He appeared voluntarily and was accompanied by Agent Bob Allen of the F.B.I.

DeForge conferred for five hours with police chief John Gold before an intermission, at which time he talked with members of the press and announced that he was cooperating with authorities in every way to clear up the whole thing.

Gold told the United Press: No criminal charges have been filed against anyone but will continue an extensive investigation until we find the party responsible for throwing of the game here."

Gold said the police had no record of McWaters, identified in the Columbus hearing before Trautman as the third member of the frameup.

Leaksville's problem occurs for the second time in two years. Last midseason the Triplets, owned by several businessmen in Leaksville, Spray and Draper, were forced to turn in their franchise in the Carolina League for financial reasons. The League handled

the team for several weeks, but then sold the franchise to Weingarten, Brady and Smothers, who then owned the Reidsville club in the Tri-State League.

The planning was to move the Tri-State franchise to another town, preferably in South Carolina (eventually Florence) and get Leaksville in the Class D Blue Ridge League. Reidsville then would be in the Carolina League. When it became official, Weingarten had not part in the Reidsville club in the Carolina League but he did own Leaksville

Winston Salem Journal
3 Jun 1948

Carroll Brown, president of the Carolina League, who has been a very worried young man for the past couple of weeks during the investigation of the charges concerning gambling at the Winston Salem-Reidsville baseball game here May14, can now relax with the realization of a job well done.

Brown, who is serving his first year as president of the league, probably had some moment during the investigation when he wished that he was a bricklayer in some dam project out in Montana, or still better, a airline pilot on the Shanaghia-Chungking run.

The problem which confronted Carroll on the afternoon of May 16, when he attend the Reidsville-Greensboro game here, must have been quite a headache for a young man making his debut as executive in charge of one of the strongest minor leagues in the country.

Carroll handled his work well and showed a determination to break up all forms of organized gambling in the league. The banishment of Barney DeForge, Reidsville player-manager and Ed Weingarten, official of two minor league clubs, was the climax to the investigation.

Telephone calls must have been like a needle in the arm to Carroll these days, especially with the press, the radio, the police and the investigators from George Trautman's office in constant contact with him.

Yesterday afternoon I found the following telegram on the desk from Carroll:
"Please be assured that everything in our power will be done to prevent further such incidents.
"Please relay this to your readers. Again, many thanks to you personally, regards.
"Carroll Brown"

That wrote finis to the Carolina League chapter of an amazing conspiracy to damage the greatest sport in the World.

Police Did A Fine Job in Investigation

Three police officers who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the baseball investigators are due full credit for the "break" in the DeForge-Weingarten case.

Captain W .R. Burke and Lieutenant Jim Bowles of the Winston-Salem police and Bob Allen of the State Bureau of Investigation moved into the picture even before baseball men took charge.

Captain Burke and Lieutenant Bowles began their investigation into the gambling here only hours after rumors of the betting coup began to fly. Allen was called in to aid the study of the case.

"Captain Burke and Allen are due the highest praise for their work in the investigation. They had done a wonderful job," said Police chief John Gold Yesterday.

The police joined by the baseball undercover men, turned the information over to Trautman's office and threw their investigation in that direction.

It was their investigation which uncovered the telephone calls involving DeForge with a person here on the day of the game, May 14, brought light to the deposit of money in the Reidsville bank after the contest by DeForge, discovered the meeting of DeForge with an unknown person at the hotel here after the game and turned up the meeting of

Weingarten, DeForge and "McWaters" at Reidsville on May 10th. It was the kind of fine work that laid facts on the table which could not be disputed.

Thanks To Those Who Assisted In The Investigation

Brown said he wanted to thank all of those who aided in uncovering the details of the game. He expressed appreciation, on behalf of the league and himself, to the Winston-Salem police , Vadie Himal, business manager of the Winston-Salem club, the North Carolina S.B.I., Phil Lundeen of Reidsville and all others who co-operated with baseball in uncovering the facts.

"You'd be surprised how much evidence we had gathered in the first three days after the game," he added.

"I believe the case is closed so far as we (the Carolina League) are concerned," he added.

"But the investigation will continue and it maybe only the start of a wide-spread thing," he said.

Brown did not elaborate on this statement, although it was a clear indication that baseball men thought that only the surface had been scratched in a sinister gambling ring.

Plans Talked For All-Star Game

The directors after hearing Brown's report discussed plans for the league all-star game, which will be held in Greensboro in mid-July.

The all-star teams will be picked by members of the Carolina League's Baseball writers Association. The western team will be composed of players of Winston-Salem, Martinsville, Reidsville and Greensboro while the Eastern squad will be composed of players from Danville, Burlington, Durham and Raleigh.

Under the set-up eight starting players, a utility outfielder and a utility infielder, reserve catcher, four game pitchers and a batting practice pitcher will be selected fro each team.

LUCKIES SPLIT WITH MARTINS IN TWIN BILL

30 May 1948

Reidsville-Reidsville and Martinsville split a twin bill here last night, the Reidsville boys taking the seven inning opener, 3 to 2 and Martinsville coming through with night cap, 4 to 2. Reidsville won the opener with three runs in the sixth inning. Faucette was safe on a second baseman's bobble of Mitchell's ground ball. Downing batting for Abernathy, doubled Dunne home and Mitchell scored on Musumeci's fly to the outfield.

The Winston Salem Journal
4 June 1948

Weingarten Free On Bond In Baseball Case

Club Official Denies Charge

Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, minor league club official was free under $2,500 bond last night on a charge of bribery in a baseball game played between Reidsville and Winston Salem here May 14th.

Arrested in Roanoke, Va. early yesterday by Roanoke police. Captain of Detectives W.R. Burke of the Winston-Salem police department and Agent Bob Allen of the State Bureau of Investigation. Weingarten waived extradition and was brought back to Winston-Salem in mid-afternoon.

He immediately arranged bond signed by two professional bondsmen, conferred with his attorney, Joe Johnson and left for Florence, S.C. where he is a majority stockholder in the Class B Tri-State League club of that city.

Weingarten and Bernard "Barney" DeForge, former manager and pitcher of the Reidsville Club of the Carolina League were placed on the permanently ineligible list Tuesday by George Trautman of Columbus, Ohio, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (minor).

DeForge Under Bond

DeForge who confessed that he "threw" the game here was arrested late Wednesday night on a charge of bribery. He is at liberty under $1,000 bond.

DeForge told a story to Trautman and also the police here of a conspiracy involving himself, Weingarten and "W.C. McWaters" to "fix" the game which Winston-Salem won 5-0. DeForge issued four bases on balls and made a wild pitch in the eighth inning enabling Winston-Salem to score three runs.

Weingarten had attended a meeting of the Blue Ridge League directors (he was an official of the Leaksville Club) at Roanoke Wednesday. He was arrested in his room at the Patrick Henry Hotel at 1:30 a.m. yesterday. He accompanied the officers to police headquarters. He left Roanoke at 10 a.m. in the custody of the officers for the return trip here.

Charges Are Denied

Captain Burke said Weingarten denied the charges. "DeForge isn't trying to do anything but clear himself," he was quoted as saying.

The Captain of Detectives said Weingarten also denied having participated in a conference with DeForge and "McWaters" of Reidsville May 10th. At the conference, according to DeForge, the proposition of "making a lot of money by betting on baseball games" was discussed. Captain Burke and Weingarten told him he arrived in Greensboro by 2 p.m. that day to fill a business appointment. He declined to discuss the nature of the appointment. He insisted that he had "told the truth" at the Columbus meeting.

The detective captain quoted Weingarten further as saying he did not know "W.C. McWaters."

Criticizes Carolina League

Captain Burke said Weingarten stated that all is not well in the Carolina League, but asserted the situation did not include gambling. Police placed little credence in that statement, however, Weingarten refused to give any details. He merely said that "things are going on which nobody knows," according to Captain Burke.

Meanwhile, Winston-Salem police continued their through investigation of the bribery and big scale betting reported to have been made on the game here May 14th. It was indicated that other warrants may be issued in the case.

The Reidsville Review
4 June 1948

DeForge and Weingarten Out On Bond

Ed Weingarten was released under $2,500 bond by Winston-Salem police yesterday and will appear in a preliminary hearing on June 10th on charges of "fixing" a baseball game. DeForge who was arrested Wednesday, was released Wednesday night under $1,000 bond.

Carroll Brown, Carolina League president had called a meeting in Burlington today and will declare the matter officially closed. All club officials. Managers, members of the Carolina League Sports Writers Association were asked to attend.

The Leaksville club in the Class D Blue Ridge League will probably be Leaksville owned. The league has taken over the franchise and a prominent Leaksville businessman has expressed interest in the franchise.

The Florence team of the Tri-State League announced yesterday that Ed Weingarten was no longer connected with the team.

Greensboro Daily News
6 Jun 1948

McWaters Appears, Post $3,000 Bond And Departs

Third Man Named In Baseball Case Surrenders Before Charlotte Police

Charlotte-W.C. McWaters named in the controversy over a "fixed" baseball game at Winston-Salem, surrendered to police here today.

Police Chief Frank Littlejohn said the Clover, S.C. automobile dealer appeared at the police station voluntarily, was charged with violating the North Carolina bribery law, posted $3000 bond and departed.

Chief Littlejohn said McWaters was ordered to appear in Winston-Salem Municipal Court, June 21.

The warrant, issued by Winston-Salem police, charged McWaters with "offering to bribe and bribe a player-manager, one Bernard DeForge, who is (was) an active member of the Reidsville, N.C. club which is a member of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues."

Barney DeForge, the former playing manager of Reidsville and Ed Weingarten, a minor league official and stockholder, were banned from baseball for life last Tuesday by George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs.

Both DeForge and Weingarten have been charged with violating North Carolina statue 14.374 which applies to the acceptances of bribes by baseball officials, players or umpires. DeForge posted bond of $1,000 and Weingarten a bond of $2,500. Penalty upon conviction violating the bribery statue is imprisonment of from one to five years.

DeForge told President Trautman he met with Weingarten and McWaters and discussed a plan to "make a lot of money by betting on baseball games."

The Greensboro Daily News
4 June 1948
Weingarten, DeForge Out On Bond
Carolina Loop Directors Set Meeting Today
Leaksville Folks May Obtain Club

Emanuel (Ed) Weingarten, the club official banned for organized baseball for life in connection with gambling and bribery of the May 14 game at Winston-Salem, was released under $2,500 bond by Winston-Salem police yesterday. He was arrested in Roanoke, Va. and waived extradition.

Preliminary hearing for Weingarten and Barney DeForge, the pitcher-manager of the Reidsville Luckies who admitted throwing the game at the hearing before George Trautman, czar of the minor leagues, has been set for June 10.

DeForge was arrested by Winston-Salem police Wednesday midnight and was released under $1,000 bond. He was with the police for five hours Wednesday in the investigation of the bribery case.

Both have been charged with bribery under article 51 of the North Carolina statue on protection of the game of baseball. Conviction carries "confinement in the state penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than five years." District Solicitor Walter E. Johnson Jr. promised to carry the sports scandal into court.

The Carolina League, whose president, Carrol Brown of Martinsville, Va. played such an active part in the investigation, will declare the matter officially closed today.

Occasion is the called meeting of the club directors at the Alamance Hotel in Burlington, time 11 a.m. The league president has called all club officials and managers to the meeting, also inviting the members of the Carolina League Sports Writers Association, Brown added, "I think the press and radio should hear my report."

Brown had been on Columbus, Ohio for three weeks helping with investigation of the case.

Radke also arranged to meet the club's payroll which passed May 31 without payment. Bernie Loman of Greensboro will remain as manager, Radke stated, adding that it may be possible to strengthen the roster before new owners take over.

Weingarten, former General Manager of the Greensboro Patriots and still a legal resident of the city, living at 811 Walker Avenue, was reported enroute to Florence last night. He owns majority stock in that Tri-State League club.

Connie Creedon, hard hitting outfielder, jumped the club Tuesday as the Trautman announcement was made. His whereabouts were not known.

Late Florence club stockholders announced that Weingarten in no longer connected with Tri-State league team. The stockholders elected Earl Harris as secretary-treasurer and named Jess Plummer of Greensboro as acting business manager of he club.

Weingarten, on arrival in Winston-Salem, denied participating in the alleged throwing of the game.

"DeForge isn't doing anything but trying to clear himself," Weingarten told Captain W.R.Burke, chief of detectives of the Winston Police.

He insisted that he had "told the truth" at Columbus, Ohio, at the meeting of baseball officials, and that he was innocent.

Captain Burke quoted Wiengarten as saying all isn't well in the Carolina League, but said that none of this had anything to do with gambling. He refused to elaborate on this other than to say, "things are going on which nobody knows," but insisted that betting had nothing to do with this.

Weingarten denied he knew "W.C. McWaters," alleged to be the man who "fixed" the game lost by Reidsville to Winston Salem. He said he had known DeForge for sometime. He denied participating in the conference at Reidsville between McForge and McWaters.

The warrant against Weingarten charged himwith "offering to bribe and did bribe a player-manager, one Bernard V. DeForge, who is an active member of the Reidsville club, which is a member of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues."

DeForge is charged with "agreeing to accept and did accept a bribe for the purpose of influencing his play in a baseball game, he being a player-manager on a team which was a member of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues."

Winston Salem Journal
5 June 1948

Burlington-Stern measures to prevent gambling in baseball parks and the fraternizing of players with fans by keeping fans out of dressing rooms before and after games were recommended by President Carroll Brown of the Carolina League at a director's meeting here yesterday.

Brown, who called club officials and managers, radio and press together for a meeting to hear his report on the recent gambling scandal which broke in the league, told directors that the enforcement of these rules "up to you."

He asked the directors to secure adequate police for the parks to combat gambling and to protect players and umpires.

The league president warned the managers to keep their players away from fans at the baseball parks and to see that persons other than club officials are not permitted in the dressing rooms.

He warned that Trautman's office was viewing the actions in the league closely and that all contacts which might lead to gambling must be removed at the parks. He also called attention to the rules which call for adequate facilities in dressing rooms for the umpires.

Cards Must Play Luckies Here July 10

Brown notified Vedie Himsl of the Cards and Phil Lundeen of Reidsville that the last of the eighth and the first of the ninth innings of the May 14 "thrown" game here will be played on the next trip of to Southside Park-July 10.

While no official notification of Trautman's decision as to the replaying of the game, starting at the Card's half of the eighth has been received, Brown said that it was included in his final statement on the case and will be played as ordered.

The Cards will start the play-off by going to the plate in the eighth and holding a 2-0 lead in the game. It was at this point that Barney DeForge came in to pitch for Reidsville here on May 14 and admittedly gave Winston-Salem three runs to clutch the game.

Reidsville Gets Vote Of Confidence

The League Directors after hearing President Brown recount the story of gambling, bribery and game-throwing as uncovered in the investigation which led to the expulsion of DeForge, Reidsville manager, and Ed Weingarten, official of two other clubs, gave the Reidsville club and players a rising vote of Confidence.

Brown explained that at no time did the names of any player other than DeForge or club officials at Reidsville come into the investigation.

Brown told the story of the "break" in the case, only an hour or two after the game, of the investigation by Winston Salem police and club officials, of the investigations by Trautman's office and the conferences with DeForge and Weingarten.

The league president said that last Tuesday, after long questions, Trautman told a still-defiant DeForge to go out and eat a sandwich and think things over.

"In less than two minutes DeForge was back at the door. He came in and said that he was ready to tell the whole story and to get it off his chest," Brown said.

It was just that sudden-the decision by DeForge to come clean in the whole mess.

Greensboro Daily News
5 June 1948

Sordid Story Of Bribery Case Told By President

Burlington, June 4-Handsome, unsmiling Carroll Brown sat there at the table, facing baseball men whose years of experience would make the youthful Carolina League president look like a babe in the woods. He looked them in the eyes. In 20 days he had aged 200 years.

"You men will never realize the rottenness of the whole situation as it unveiled in the investigation," he began solemnly. Maybe there was a break in his voice. He spoke quietly.

He was outlining in considerable detail-he admitted later that some of the facts remained secret- that Manny Weingarten-Barney DeForge bribery case which brought both a ban from professional baseball as long as they may live.

Carroll reviewed the story, day by day, incident by incident. How DeForge deposited three $100 bills in a Reidsville bank right after the game in question and how he alibied to cover it. How DeForge was told to go out and get a sandwich and think it over, returning to Trautman's office "two minutes later " ready to confess and get it off his chest. How Weingarten admitted meeting DeForge at Pat Brady's service station in Reidsville but denied going to the hotel for that alleged meeting to arrange the bribe. How McWaters, the gambler named, tried to contact DeForge at the Melbourne Hotel in Durham on May 12-which might have been the first "thrown" game except that it rained that night!

The details were sordid. They stunk to the high heavens, and the Carolina League directors, who were associates with one of the banned parties for parts of two seasons, felt a little sticky.

It's A Warning To Our League

President Brown never raised his voice, never cracked a smile. He said he didn't feel like it. He had been in Columbus, Ohio, for three weeks. He had played nursemaid to DeForge for a solid week so that Weingarten or anybody else could learn of his confession before the June 1 meeting.

Then he said; "It has been a black mark on the Carolina League, but I can report that this has closed the books on the matter for our league, but we must be careful and cautious. We will be watched for some time to come. We will hear retorts, criticisms, accusations, but we must pass them off, ignore them and play ball."

Possibly he was referring to Weingarten's threat in Winston Salem that all was not well in the Carolina League and that he might tell about it. The league directors today discussed all that.

Tal Abernathy, the young man from Mebane who took over the Reidsville club when DeForge departed on his chosen path; told the club directors what to expect:"Our Reidsville ball players have heard nothing but retorts from the fans in connection this case. But we have told them to forget it, go ahead and play ball and not talk back. We can take it."

Brown wasn't through with merely a warning. "it is up to you club owners to play the major role," the league president emphasized, "in seeing that such a thing as this is not

allowed to come about again. Or to even having the fans talking about such a thing. It is the responsibility of the club owners, shared by the ball players and the local police.

"Now is the time to stop it, even the petty gambling which has become serious.

Precautions Suggested in Outline

He paused to outline his program. Never once did the young man refer to a note. There was only a blank table before him'

"We must do several things," he continued.

"First: Our ballparks must have more police protection. This is absolutely important.

"Second: The players must not be allowed to talk with the fans during a ball game. Even before the game, it should be discouraged because even an innocent conversation might lead to talk about the fans. You managers should take special note of this precaution.

"Third; All outsiders should be kept from the dressing room. Nobody should be allowed in there except officials. Again, it might be innocent enough for a fan to mix with the players, but it doesn't look right."

"Fourth: You must check your parks and check some of the building arrangements that put the fans too close to the players. Keep the players away from the fans, too.

"Fifth: Get some plain clothesmen from the department and if necessary make some arrests among the gambling element at your ballpark. This would do more than anything else to kill it.

"Sixth: Instruct your ball players where to hang out in the daytime. Too many of them frequent places where the Gambling elements predominate, and the cause unfavorable talk among fans.'

"Seventh: Our umpires are going to report to the ball parks an hour before game time and they are going to be on the look out, too.

He was soon through. He reported that Trautman had ruled the "thrown" game must be replayed from the eighth inning. It will be done by July 10. He added Trautman's office had spent thousands of dollars clearing the case.

The league then gave the Reidsville club-in particular, President Phil Lundeen and Manager Abernathy, who were present-a ringing vote of confidence at the motion of Burlington's Brodie Hood.

Solemnly, the meeting adjourned.

The Greensboro Daily News
7 June 1948

Weingarten's Steeler Club Taken By Florence Men

Tri-State League Approves New Group As Operators Of Franchise

Charlotte – The Tri-State League directors today formally expressed their confidence in the present operators of the Florence Club. The directors gave their approval with the understanding that a new corporation for the Steelers will be formed by Florence backers.

The vote of confidence was extended at a meeting called here following the banishing of Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, former Florence general manager, from organized baseball.

Minor Leagues President M. Trautman imposed the life-long ban on Weingarten and DeForge, pitcher-manager of Reidsville in the Carolina League last Tuesday. The action arises out of the alleged fixing of the May 14th Reidsville-Winston-Salem game at Winston-Salem. DeForge, Weingarten, and W.C. McWaters, Clover, S.C. used car dealer are under charges of bribery.

Willie Gregory, of the former Florence Corporation, and Louis Pallis, who was named league director from Florence succeeding Weingarten, attended today's meeting.

The Florence representatives left the room when discussion on the disposition of the Steeler franchise started.

League President, C.M. Llewellyn of Concord made this statement, reference to the directors action; "The Florence club seems to now have worthy, substantial backers, and I was glad to see the directors return the club."

Greensboro Daily News
June 1948
Dr. Tom Wilson

One of the staunchest supporters of baseball in the Tri-Cities (Leakesville-Spray-Draper), Dr. Tom Wilson, former President of the Carolina League and also the old Bi-State League, was contacted by the Daily News last night. He was at the Wesley Long Hospital here following a successful operation on a neck tumor yesterday morning.

"We definitely want to see baseball stay in Leaksville," Dr. Wilson said, "and I will do all that I can to keep it there." He returns home in two or three days.

Miss Katherine Kirk, business manager of the Lekasville Club, was notified yesterday that Radke would arrive in Leaksville today to assume control of the franchise for the league. Miss King is one of the few women in baseball.

It was unofficially reported Tuesday night that the May 31 payroll of the Leaksville club had not been met.

Weingarten attended yesterday's meeting of the Blue Ridge League and denied again that he had had any part in the incident which led to the banning to of two baseball men from organized ball for life. The decision by George Trautman, czar of the minor league was rendered Tuesday.

Appeal Planned

The associated press reported that Weingarten told the Blue Ridge League board that he was filling an appeal with the executive committee of baseball and expected his case to come up for consideration about June 11. He declared that he was in Greensboro "at the time DeForge claims he and mysterious Mr. McWaters, the gambler involved in throwing the game) were talking to me in a Reidsville hotel." Weingarten added, the Associated Press reported, the he had "plenty of proof" that he had been in Greensboro.

President Manley Llewellyn of the Tri-State League told the Daily News that he was calling a meeting of his directors some day this week. He arrived at his Martinsville, Va. home yesterday after almost three weeks of trying investigations between Columbus, Ohio, and Carolina League Points.

The Greensboro Daily News
15 June 1948
"The Thrown Game"
Frisinger Hurls Cards Over Reidsville 5-0

Jack Frisinger held Reidsville to two hits at Winston-Salem last night and the Cards defeated the Luckies in their Carolina League series opener 5-0.

Frisinger locked horns in a beautiful slab duel with Tal Abernathy. He gave up two hits, a single to Dean Frye in he first and a single to Musumsici in the sixth.

19 May 1948

Tallmadge Abernathy, Reidsville southpaw stopped the seven-game winning streak of the Raleigh Capitals by pitching the Luckies to a 5-3 victory at Devereux Meadows last night.

20 May 1948

The Reidsville bats went boom, boom as the Luckies walloped the Raleigh Caps 15-6 here last night. Hester scattered 11 Raleigh hits nicely.

Joe Trotta and Bob Mitchell each got three hits to pace the 17-hit attack on three Raleigh pitchers. Timm, the starter was sent to the showers in the third inning with a four-run outburst.

21 May 1948

Reidsville Luckies exploded for eight runs in a wild sixth inning to defeat the Winston-Salem Cards in the series opener here last night, 10-4.

Lloyd Hawley, big Cards right-hander had just handed a 4-2 lead when his mates scored three times in the first of the sixth. Then the roof fell in and the Red Birds were trapped.

Three Winston-Salem hurlers saw duty during the wild merry-go-round as the Luckies put together five hits, two walks and an error for the eight runs which clinched the contest.

Gardner, who twirled the route for the Luckies, gave the Cards still slumped in their batting attack, only seven hits and one bad inning-the sixth-when he was touched for three runs.

Downing opened the big sixth for Reidsville and before Marlow was finally able to put out the fire, the Luckies had rapped out doubles by Faucette, Dunne and Trotta, singles by Mitchell and Musumici, a walk to Sipek, sacrifice, an error by Roseberry, and a couple of wild pitches.

The Cards had their big inning in the sixth by scoring three runs on walks to Zernia and Caswell, singles by Debish and Heckel and Frye's fly out to right field.

The Cards and Luckies will meet in the final of the series here tonight. Chief Bender will probably get the slab call from Manager Zip Payne in hopes of evening the series.

The Greensboro Daily News
20 June 1948

League Sells Leaksville Club Franchise: Team Fined

The state's nice big family of 43 professional baseball clubs got down to 42 yesterday-but nobody seems to know exactly how it happened to the good Leaksville folks who have certainly had their baseball ups and downs in the past two years.

The Blue Ridge league franchise has been taken over by the league when Owner Emanuel Weingarten was banned for life by organized baseball.

It was assumed – and taken too much for granted – that Leaksville-Spray-Draper business men would take over the ball club. When League President Stanley Radke of Roanoke, Va., visited in Leaksville two weeks ago, he had offers from local citizens there.

But suddenly two nights ago when the Leaksville club was scheduled to play at Wytheville, Radke informed Manager Bernie Loman of Greensboro that certain Wytheville parties had bought the club interests and that the franchise was being moved to Abingdon, Va. near Bristol.

Greene, the clubs star pitcher was returned to Florence of the Tri-State League under option agreements, and four other players were transferred yesterday to the Wytheville Club, there being Diaz, Fernandez, Glenn and Stockton.

Last night's game at Tri-City Park was transferred to Radford as was today's contest between the two clubs.

Last nights game was transferred to Radford as was today's contest between the two clubs. No explanation was given Leaksville for the transfer. Radke could not be reached for comment.

Joe Santomauro, former major league pitcher, has been named playing manager of the Abingdon entry. Radke said Santomauro, 35, is a native of Greenwich, Conn. He pitched for the Chicago Cubs in 1937 and played for 5 years with Oakland with the Pacific Coast League. Last year, he managed, Welch, W.Va. in the Appalachian loop.

Ralph Calhoun of Wytheville, Va. will be president of the Abingdon club. Martin Morales Jr. is vice-president and Frank Geignas, secretary.

The Daily News learned, however, that a special meeting had been called for Mt. Airy at 10 a.m. today. Leaksville parties, it was further understood, had already put up some money with the league directors with the understanding that the Tri-Cities would retain the Franchise.

If the Radke move goes through it leaves only two North Carolina clubs in the league-and with plenty of travel, too. They are Mt. Airy and North Wilkesboro, the letter in its first year in the league.

In the Carolina League, President Carroll Brown got out the heavy stick and slapped a $250 fine on the Raleigh Club for a cushion and pillar exhibition against Umpires Davis and Soresl Friday night. The game was declared forfeited with Martinsville leading 7-0.

It was Davis's second cushion barrage within a week. He was greeted by cushions from the Greensboro fans after the game last Saturday night. Davis is umpire in chief.

The test of Brown's statement regarding his action follows:

"I am imposing a fine of $250 on the Raleigh club became of its failure to stop the throwing of cushions at umpires and players.....At this time I am suspending $150 of

that amount, but if the incident should occur again in Raleigh, the full amount of the fine will be collected..

"In the future, any such incident as this, either in Raleigh or any other city in the Carolina League, will bring a much heavier fine. Club owners and operators are required to afford proper and full protection for players and officials alike in all their games and I intend to enforce this requirement."

The forfeit is being upheld.

21 June 1948

Trip Franchise Still In Doubt In Blue Ridge League

Three clubs and the league president Stanley F. Radke of Roanoke, Va. failed to show up for the called meeting of the Blue Ridge League in Mt. Airy yesterday morning and that left the status of the sold-out Leaksville Franchise still in doubt.

The Daily News learned that the league directors had given President Radke the power "to dispose of the Leaksville franchise in the best interests of the league."

He sold the players of the Leaksville club to three Wytheville men who transferred the club to Abingdon, Va.

However, all the matter ahs not been cleared, Radke told the Roanoke times that "the Leaksville franchise was not being transferred. Leaksville's franchise was forfeited to the league after former owner Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten was banished from organized baseball earlier this month by minor league czar George Trautman. Abingdon was granted a new franchise to replace Leaksville in the six-club league.

John East, one of the Leaksville-Spray-Draper citizens interested in keeping the club, told the Daily News last night

"Whereas Sunday's meeting of the league directors was not official, we were told that a regular meeting would be called soon to iron out the whole matter. The Leaksville ball club is in debt about $8,000, although $1,300 is posted with the National Association as forfeit fee and $1,000 is with the concessions.

"We have heard that the league president is leaving the franchise in Lekasville due to the debts around town. But I believe you will be safe to say these Leaksville concerns will take the matter up with Trautman.

"We were taken completely by surprise. I had offered to take the club when Weingarten was banned, but we were told to wait for the financial report. That came last Thursday. Then Saturday we had heard he had sold the club out from under us."

The Leaksville club, which became known as Abingdon yesterday was broken up by either the league president or the new owners, one whom had been part owner of the Wytheville club. Bernie Loman, manager returned to his Greensboro home and Joe Santamauto, former manager at Raleigh, replaced him.

Clubs present at the meeting were North Wilkesboro, Mt. Airy and Galax. It was understood that the North Carolina club officials were upset by Radke's sudden decision to leave Leaksville on the outside.

The Greensboro Daily News
20 June 1948

League Sells Leaksville Club Franchise: Team Fined

The state's nice big family of 43 professional baseball clubs got down to 42 yesterday-but nobody seems to know exactly how it happened to the good Leaksville folks who have certainly had their baseball ups and downs in the past two years.

The Blue Ridge league franchise has been taken over by the league when Owner Emanuel Weingarten was banned for life by organized baseball.

It was assumed – and taken too much for granted – that Leaksville-Spray-Draper business men would take over the ball club. When League President Stanley Radke of Roanoke, Va., visited in Leaksville two weeks ago, he had offers from local citizens there.

But suddenly two nights ago when the Leaksville club was scheduled to play at Wytheville, Radke informed Manager Bernie Loman of Greensboro that certain Wytheville parties had bought the club interests and that the franchise was being moved to Abingdon, Va. near Bristol.

Greene, the clubs star pitcher was returned to Florence of the Tri-State League under option agreements, and four other players were transferred yesterday to the Wytheville Club, there being Diaz, Fernandez, Glenn and Stockton.

Last night's game at Tri-City Park was transferred to Radford as was today's contest between the two clubs.

Last nights game was transferred to Radford as was today's contest between the two clubs. No explanation was given Leaksville for the transfer. Radke could not be reached for comment.

Joe Santomauro, former major league pitcher, has been named playing manager of the Abingdon entry. Radke said Santomauro, 35, is a native of Greenwich, Conn. He pitched for the Chicago Cubs in 1937 and played for 5 years with Oakland with the Pacific Coast League. Last year, he managed, Welch, W.Va. in the Appalachian loop.

Ralph Calhoun of Wytheville, Va. will be president of the Abingdon club. Martin Morales Jr. is vice-president and Frank Geignas, secretary.

The Daily News learned, however, that a special meeting had been called for Mt. Airy at 10 a.m. today. Leaksville parties, it was further understood, had already put up some money with the league directors with the understanding that the Tri-Cities would retain the Franchise.

If the Radke move goes through it leaves only two North Carolina clubs in the league-and with plenty of travel, too. They are Mt. Airy and North Wilkesboro, the letter in its first year in the league.

In the Carolina League, President Carroll Brown got out the heavy stick and slapped a $250 fine on the Raleigh Club for a cushion and pillar exhibition against Umpires Davis and Soresl Friday night. The game was declared forfeited with Martinsville leading 7-0.

It was Davis's second cushion barrage within a week. He was greeted by cushions from the Greensboro fans after the game last Saturday night. Davis is umpire in chief.

The test of Brown's statement regarding his action follows:

"I am imposing a fine of $250 on the Raleigh club became of its failure to stop the throwing of cushions at umpires and players..... At this time I am suspending $150 of

that amount, but if the incident should occur again in Raleigh, the full amount of the fine will be collected..

"In the future, any such incident as this, either in Raleigh or any other city in the Carolina League, will bring a much heavier fine. Club owners and operators are required to afford proper and full protection for players and officials alike in all their games and I intend to enforce this requirement."

The forfeit is being upheld.

21 June 1948

Trip Franchise Still In Doubt In Blue Ridge League

Three clubs and the league president Stanley F. Radke of Roanoke, Va. failed to show up for the called meeting of the Blue Ridge League in Mt. Airy yesterday morning and that left the status of the sold-out Leaksville Franchise still in doubt.

The Daily News learned that the league directors had given President Radke the power "to dispose of the Leaksville franchise in the best interests of the league."

He sold the players of the Leaksville club to three Wytheville men who transferred the club to Abingdon, Va.

However, all the matter ahs not been cleared, Radke told the Roanoke times that "the Leaksville franchise was not being transferred. Leaksville's franchise was forfeited to the league after former owner Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten was banished from organized baseball earlier this month by minor league czar George Trautman. Abingdon was granted a new franchise to replace Leaksville in the six-club league.

John East, one of the Leaksville-Spray-Draper citizens interested in keeping the club, told the Daily News last night

"Whereas Sunday's meeting of the league directors was not official, we were told that a regular meeting would be called soon to iron out the whole matter. The Leaksville ball club is in debt about $8,000, although $1,300 is posted with the National Association as forfeit fee and $1,000 is with the concessions.

"We have heard that the league president is leaving the franchise in Lekasville due to the debts around town. But I believe you will be safe to say these Leaksville concerns will take the matter up with Trautman.

"We were taken completely by surprise. I had offered to take the club when Weingarten was banned, but we were told to wait for the financial report. That came last Thursday. Then Saturday we had heard he had sold the club out from under us."

The Leaksville club, which became known as Abingdon yesterday was broken up by either the league president or the new owners, one whom had been part owner of the Wytheville club. Bernie Loman, manager returned to his Greensboro home and Joe Santamauto, former manager at Raleigh, replaced him.

Clubs present at the meeting were North Wilkesboro, Mt. Airy and Galax. It was understood that the North Carolina club officials were upset by Radke's sudden decision to leave Leaksville on the outside.

The Reidsville Review
22 June 1948

Leaksville Case Will Go to Trautman

Katherine King of Reidsville and business manager of the Leakesville baseball team, announced yesterday that she will carry the fight to Trautman on behalf of the creditors of the Leaksville Club. Stan Radke, president of the Blue Ridge League, has allowed a transfer of the Leaksville franchise to Abingdon, Va.

She pointed out two reasons for this sudden move and unexpected sale of the Leaksville club to Abingdon and the transfer of certain players between Leaksville and Wytheville clubs.

First, she listed the fact that the Leaksville fans wanted to retain that franchise and that concrete bid had been made to league president Stan Radke by Leaksville interest.

The second angle is the case of creditors of the Leaksville club which under Radke's decision had been left holding the bag.

"He (Radke) sold the franchise and assets of the club to new owners in Virginia and if he sold the assets the should assume the liabilities of the of the club." She pointed out.

John East of Leaksville, who made an offer for the club with a view of operating it in Leaksville, pointed out that he had been told to wait until a financial report had been completed, but when this was released Friday, Radke had already moved to send the franchise to Abingdon.

Amazing Player Transfer

An amazing player transfer between Abingdon and Wytheville has not been explained, to one interested baseball man.

Four players of the Leaksville club, including Dick Stockton, one of the league's top hitters, were transferred to Wytheville and four players on the Wytheville club moved to Abingdon.

It was also noted that a club official at Wytheville transferred to Abingdon to operate the new entry in the league when Frank P. Giegnas resigned as business manager to become affiliated with the new club.

Baseball men in Mount Airy and North Wilkesboro dislike the balance of an even scale of three teams in North Carolina and an equal number in Virginia to four in Virginia and two in this state. It means longer travel for the two clubs in the state.

Miss King, representing the citizens of Leaksville has already conferred with Trautman's office and an appeal on the two points she outlined ---retaining a club for Leaksville and to protect creditors of the club---has already been filed at Columbus, Ohio.

The directors of the clubs attended a meeting at Mt. Airy Sunday---Mount Airy, Galax and North Wilkesboro-----but Radford and Wytheville were not in attendance. Radke also failed to attend the meeting, watching a league game at Radford, Va. at the time of the meeting.

Radke is understood to have asserted that the league directors gave him the authority to dispose of the club after it was turned to the league when Ed Weingarten, owner, was banned from baseball several weeks ago.

The league continued to operate the club in Leaksville after this meeting until the franchise was moved Saturday.

The Greensboro Daily News
23 June 1948

Tri-Cities Baseball Fans Aroused Over Loss Of Club

Leaksville-Spray-Draper – To say that the good baseball people of the Tri-Cities are indignant at the latest developments effecting their enjoyment of the national sport is a gross understatement. They are downright, hopping mad!

The object of this wrath is a gentleman from Roanoke, Va. by the name of Stanley Radke, presently president of the Blue Ridge League, a Class D circuit which thrives on the boundaries of North Carolina and Virginia.

The cause of course, arises from the series of events the past week and which saw the Tri-Cities, the home of a first place ball club one moment and then, presto, a town without a team the next moment.

"High-handed" "never given a chance." "Just don't understand how he can do it," are a few of the phrases with which the Tri-Cities people discuss the move which so far has cost them a ball club.

"So far" is used because there seems to be a definite idea about doing something about the situation. Tri-Cities fans chipped last Sunday with funds to send Miss Kathryn King, club secretary to Columbus to present the matter to George Trautman. She hasn't gone yet because the minor league boss is on a tour, but she plans to make the trip the moment he returns.

"I don't know exactly what I can do," says Miss King, "but I certainly am going to take this transfer to Trautman. There are three things I have in mind. The first is to return the club to Leaksville. The second is to settle the business debts. The third is to protect the game of baseball."

Transfer came suddenly

Briefly, here are some of the facts of the club and the move which saw Abingdon, Va., admitted as new member of the league as presented by Miss King.

The club, of course, was thrown upon the league when the Weingarten-DeForge case resulted in the owner being barred from baseball. President Radke was authorized to dispose of the club suddenly in the best interest of the league. Subsequently, the players were suddenly transferred to Abingdon and Radke announced the club had been sold to a group including Frank Geignas, who has been business manager at Wytheville, a league member. Geignas is reported to have owned 30 per cent of the Wytheville stock with Manager Mickey Winters, the other 70 per cent. In the course of the transfer, one of Leaksville's best hitters and two of their top pitchers went to Wytheville.

Further, says Miss King, she was subsequently told by Radke that the Leaksville franchise had not been sold, but that Abingdon had been granted a new franchise with the Leaksville debts remaining with the old franchise. Under the setup, the question of how Leaksville players were transferred to Abingdon was not clear.

And here is one of the points which makes the Tri-Cities people angry. "Leaksville-Spray-Draper were never permitted to bid for the job," says Miss King. John East, an interested businessman, substantiates this, "I went to Roanoke to see Radke when the club was turned over to the league," says East. "Radke told me it would take $9,700 to buy the club at that time---$1,300 for the franchise deposit, $4,400 to clear the debts and $4,000 for player's contracts, but that I should wait for a financial statement of the club to be prepared."

East said he returned home to await the statement, but he was never called upon again, nor was East the only interested party. L.J Selbert, an insurance man was reported interested in retaining the club in the Tri-Cities. C.J. "Buck" Darlington, who runs a printing business, reports that he notified Miss King of an offer of $5,000 from another man who was interested.

Never Given Chance

First any of the Tri-Cities fans ever knew of the move was Saturday afternoon when some of the players came to the park to pick up their gear and told the secretary they had been ordered to report to Abingdon.

"We were never given a chance," says both Darlington and East. Here are portions of a letter to the Daily News by J.U. Newman Jr. which is similar to many sent to Trautman by Tri-Cities fans.

"For the second time within a few weeks, Leaksville is in the Sports News in an unfavorable light, the first being the Weingarten-DeForge mess in which Leaksville-Spray-Draper were in no way responsible. This time it is the lost of our ball club under circumstances that are, to say the least, hard to understand.

".....Stanley Radke.....issued a statement in which he pointed out a new franchise had been granted Abingdon, that the original franchise has remained in Leaksville.

"That is the surface story.....a group of Draper men, headed by John East, began negotiations to purchase the franchise (when the league took over)....East was told to wait until the financial statement was ready....You can imagine their surprise when, instead of a notice from President Radke, they read in the papers that the club had been sold...This was the first they had heard of the deal, and were given no opportunity to bid for it.

"What we here in the Tri-Cities cannot understand is the high-handed methods employed by Stanley Radke in thus disposing of our club without giving us the slightest opportunity to retain it. The Draper group can raise plenty of money....

We simply want a fair deal and are carrying our case to George Trautman and expect to have a full investigation made of this entire so called deal....This league now has six teams and seven franchises.

"....But we have the money and fans to stay in the Blue Ridge League and if the franchise and if the there any fair-minded people in baseball we shall get back the franchise that rightfully belongs to us.

"Signed:
"J.U. Newman Jr."

The Greensboro Daily News
24 June 1948

Fourth Named In Baseball Case

Hearing Set Today At Winston-Salem For Quartet In Connection With Game

Winston-Salem – Tommy Phillips, used car dealer of Clover, S.C. today was arrested and released under $3,000 bond on a charge of "conspiracy" growing out of the "fixing" of a baseball game between Reidsville and Winston-Salem in the Carolina League here on the night of May 14th.

Phillips was arrested by Captain W.R. Burke and Lieutenant Jim Bowles of the Winston-Salem police department at a used car auction near Charlotte in Mecklenburg County. His bond was signed by Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Rogers, Route 1, Charlotte.

Barney DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville club confessed he permitted three runs to score in the eighth inning to enable gamblers to win on a bet of giving Winston-Salem and three runs. The Cards won 5-0 after four bases on balls and a wild pitch by DeForge accounted for three runs in the eighth inning.

Phillips is scheduled to appear in Municipal Court here tomorrow at 9 a.m. for paramilitary hearing.

Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, former league club owner, W.C. McWaters, also an automobile dealer from Clover, S.C. and Barney DeForge, former Reidsville pitcher-manager will face bribery charges before assistant Municipal Court Judge F. Grather Jenkins tomorrow at the same time.

Weingarten, who arrived here today, announced through his attorney that he would enter a plea of not guilty and that he would ask for a complete hearing of the charges.

Weingarten and DeForge were barred from organized baseball for life by minor league head George M. Trautman on June 1st following an extensive investigation by his Columbus, Ohio office.

Trautman said DeForge told him he accepted $300 for throwing a game between his Reidsville club and Winston-Salem here May 14th.

DeForge told Trautman that Weingarten who was connected with teams in the Carolina, Tri-State and Blue Ridge Leagues in the last two years. And McWaters, had made him a proposition "to make a lot of money betting on baseball games."

Weingarten denied DeForge's charges shortly after Trautman made them public and today his attorney, Joe W. Johnson, said he would seek a full hearing tomorrow.

Assistant Solicitor Fred Parrish Jr. will prosecute the case. The three men have been at liberty after posting heavy bonds early this month. Weingarten was arrested in a Roanoke, Va. hotel and McWaters gave himself up to Charlotte police June 5th.

McWaters has had nothing to say since. The three are charged with violation of a 1921 state law prohibiting the bribery of a baseball player, official or umpire.

The Greensboro Daily News
25 June 1948
Sporting Along.....With Smith Barrier

Baseball Messes Should Speed Up House-Cleaning

It high time the professional baseball folks of North Carolina clean house....from cellar to attic. The termites have weakened the foundation considerably this season and only the iron hand of some stout hearted leagues presidents and club owners will be able to prevent further destruction.

First there was the Weingarten-DeForge stink. The ball player involved has certainly disappointed many of the baseball fans who had felt that he was victim of a weak moment in his acceptance of $300 to throw a Carolina League ball game. They realized the DeForge had turned state witness for the trials which began yesterday. But DeForge ruined himself once and for all when he tried to get into a South Carolina semipro league, and then did pitch at Edenton under an assumed name.

Naturally the club officials involved draws little sympathy from any quarters. He has been known for his activities since he entered pro ball in October 1945 as boss of the Greensboro Patriots. His record prior to that time will undoubtedly unfurl in the courts of North Carolina.

Baseball officials helped Weingarten along. One of the former Patriot officials worked to help Weingarten's Reidsville connections within the Carolina Leagues approval. You see, still listed on the Patriot's books under assets is a $4,000 item of "accounts receivable." Baseball officials, on their own, have done absolutely nothing to correct the situation. They needed Weingarten to make baseball money, they thought.

That job came out as a by-product of a gambling mistake in Winston-Salem. Baseball officials of North Carolina should bow their heads in shame that they have allowed—even fostered—the situation to continue for three years.

The Leaksville Mess Needs Attention

But the second smell coming from Tar Hill baseball this season can be almost as serious to the good of the sport.

It concerns the Leaksville franchise, left in the lurch by Weingarten's fall from organized baseball. He owned the club. Local men there felt they had a franchise to retain the team in Leaksville and they had raised money accordingly. But suddenly they read in the papers that it had been "transferred" to Abingdon, Va.

The quotes around the above verb are most appropriate. They get the whole story involved.

League President Stanley Radke said the franchise was left in Leaksville, said a new franchise was made and sold to Abingdon, said the contracts of the players in Leaksville had been sold to Abingdon. But the double talk continued. He left about $4,500 in Weingarten's debts. Can a franchise be relived of its assets but not its liabilities? The Leaksville folks would like to know----and so would every baseball official in North Carolina.

Those who bought the new Abingdon franchise "had been connected with the Wytheville club and in the same Blue Ridge League. When they tried to get Elkin to take over the franchise, they left the impression with the Elkin folks that the league president, Radke, himself, had something to do with the deal...some Wytheville rookies to the

Roanoke club in the Piedmont League next year.....or something like that. You see, Radke is president, treasurer and business manager of the Roanoke club!

How players were transferred from Leaksville to Abingdon contracts might make an interesting story. Elkin's Dick Stockton for instance, has already appealed to Trautman for bonus money promised. Bernie Loman, the manager, came home. Kathryn King, the business manager was not notified of the change until she called Radke.....after the deal was closed.

Mt. Airy and North Wilkesboro officials should get busy for a new league president at once. And the name of Carroll Brown, that fine young man who presides over the Carolina League will be right at the top of prospects, it is learned. He would make a good man for the two leagues.

But the job is more than the Blue Ridge League's, just as the Weingarten's-DeForge stinks. It's high time all baseball men in the state clean house

The Greensboro Daily News
27 June 1948
From Soup To Nuts.....Literally

Harold "Soup" Wimner, sports editor of the Roanoke, Va. Times came up with some interesting Blue Ridge League quotes from League President Stanley Radke, to wit....."There was some interest by Leaksville people at first but after the financial status of the club became known, no one was willing to go high enough on their offer to justify on keeping the club in the North Carolina town"...."If the club had been moved to Abingdon, more than likely the league would have folded. We could not operate the club as a road team and Abingdon was the more reasonable offer for the team"....."I contacted the league directors before selling the players contracts to Abingdon and all of them agreed to the deal."....But George Trautman of the minor leagues will still get a lot of Leaksville facts and figures which apparently aren't the same ones Radke has.

The Greensboro Daily News
1 July 1948

Trautman Holds Hearing In Leaksville Case

Pair Summoned For Appearance In Columbus

The events and actions which led to the loss by Leaksville-Spray-Draper of its baseball team will be aired today before George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Minor Leagues.

Miss Kathryn King, business manager of the Tri-Cities Blue Ridge team until its sudden transfer to Abingdon June 19, will appear before Trautman at 11 a.m. today in Columbus, Ohio.

Miss King's appearance will be in response to a direct summons yesterday from the minor league czar. Called to appear at the same time is Stanley Radke of Roanoke, Va., president of the Blue Ridge League.

"I don't know how much good I can do, but I intend to present fully the case for Leaksville," said Miss King last night as she prepared to depart for Columbus by plane.

Received Letters

"Mr. Trautman told me he had received a number of letters and articles from Leaksville people complaining of the move and that one of the purposes of his office is to investigate such actions.

"He said the reason for the delay was that he had been unable to contact Mr. Radke before. He seemed very much interested.

The Leaksville franchise was thrown back to the Blue Ridge League when its owner, Emanuel Weingarten, was barred from baseball by Trautman. At the time the directors gave Radke authority to dispose of the club and franchise to the best interest of the league. Approximately $4,000 was outstanding in debts against the club at the time, the figure later rising to $5,600 at the time of its removal.

Despite interest of would-be-purchased from the Tri-Cities, the club was shifted suddenly on June 19 to Abingdon. The business learned of the transfer at 1:30 p.m. before he the team had a home game that night

New Franchise

In explanation of the move, President Radke later said a new franchise had been granted Abingdon, the old one remaining in Leaksville. Interests headed by Ralph Calhoun, Martin Morales Jr., and Frank Geigness, former business manager of the Wytheville Club in the same league, were granted the new franchise at a reported price of $5,000. Leaksville players except for three who went to Wytheville in a "deal". Pitcher George Greene who was recalled by Florence and Manager Bernie Loman resigned.

Leaksville's people headed by John East and others who were interested in purchasing the club at the time have protested vigorously that they were never given a chance to buy the franchise and settle the debts which, at last reports are still outstanding against the club.

A move to name Carroll Brown, Carolina League president as new President of the Blue Ridge has been started in some quarters

Weingarten, former Tri-State League club president, is seriously ill at a Greensboro hospital of a kidney ailment. Johnson said his client would not be able to stand trial and would offer disposition from his physician to that effect.

Weingarten, Barney DeForge, former pitcher-manager for Reidsville of the Carolina League and C.W. McWaters, Clover, S.C. used car dealer, are charged with bribery. Tommy Phillips, also of Clover will face conspiracy charges.

The Greensboro Daily News
3 July 1948

Abingdon To Keep Blue Ridge Team

Ruling Given By Trautman After Meeting

Baseball Trial Set for July 7 Docket

Columbus, Ohio—The president of the minor leagues tonight ruled Abingdon, Va., could continue to hold the newly given franchise in the Blue Ridge baseball league.

George M. Trautman, president of the national association of professional leagues, made the ruling on a protest by Kathryn King of Leaksville, N.C. Abingdon took over the franchise formerly held by Leaksville on a decision of league President Stanley Radke, June 18th.

Mrs. King, President Radke and President Trautman conferred yesterday. "Based upon the facts disclosed at the hearing," Trautman said in a statement today, "This office is unable to acquiesce in the thought that Radke acted improperly or too hastily and is not inclined to disturb the rights of the present franchise holders at Abingdon to continue operations."

The Leaksville franchise was forfeited to the Blue Ridge League June 1st. It had been operated by Ed Weingarten, who was banned from baseball for life by President Trautman.

Mrs. King said Trautman protested that that President Rake had acted hastily before Leaksville citizens could determine whether to undertake operations of the Blue Ridge club.

Radke, the minor's president continued, surveyed the Leaksville club June 3 and found the club without funds, overdrawn in bank account and indebtedness to various creditors to an extent of approximately $7,500.

Trautman's four page ruling detailed the extent to which Radke endeavored to permit Leaksville to regain its franchise and said:

Since operation of the Leaksville franchise by league was resulting in steady financial loss, the disadvantage, of course, of creditors and since no offer had been received by any Leaksville group or individual, Radke, with the approval of the league directors, entered into negotiations with the Abingdon interests and as a result, a new franchise was issued to Abingdon on June 18."

The sale to Abingdon, said the report, realized about $5,000 for creditors "which will be distributed in accordance with baseball rules which give priority to players claims for salary, league obligations of the club, obligations to members of the organization, etc.

"Any funds remaining after the payment of baseball liens will be distributed pro rata to the general creditors and the unpaid balance of such claims will be liened against the Leaksville territory for a period of five years during which time no club of this organization (the minors) will be permitted to operate in Lekasville until the liens are satisfied."

Weingarten's Attorney To Seek Continuance

Winston-Salem – Joe W. Johnson, attorney for Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, said tonight he would seek a continuance of the case charging Weingarten with bribery in connection with an alleged "thrown" Carolina League baseball game here when it is called in Forsyth Superior Court here July 7.

The Greensboro Daily News
4 July 1948

J.E. "Lefty" Smith, Route 1, Greensboro and Flipe "Chief" Jimenez of the Patriots obtained a verdict of not guilty at Municipal Court here yesterday on the charge of affray. Smith was convicted of gambling and prayer for judgment was continued on condition of payment of court costs.

That was the story in brief, but it failed to carry the full meaning of the little episode at Memorial Stadium Thursday night and the continuation of same at Judge Earle Rive's courtroom at the City Hall yesterday morning. It means more to Carolina League baseball than just that.

In the first place Lefty Smith, a stocky Greensboro baseball fan who got his first diamond experience as a pitcher for Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem in the late 20's and then played semipro ball, will not be able to see any Carolina League ball this year.....and maybe next.

Carroll Brown, the president of the league, who was in the courtroom. When the verdict was rendered, he had an additional statement to make: "Mr. Smith will not be admitted to any Carolina League baseball park for the remainder of the 1948 season and the playoffs. I will consult with George Trautman (minor league executive) as to the banishment for the future."

It was a quick step on the part of the young league president to continue his campaign to stamp out gambling in the league. You will recall he teethed on the DeForge-Weingarten case and so this Smith affair was taken like a veteran.

The Judge Does An Analysis

Judge Rives, an ardent sportsman himself, summarized the entire situation with near perfection during his comments prior to judgment.

He began with the observation that unfortunately or fortunately as the case may be. He was seated in the box section next to the scene of fisticuffs between Jimenez, the ball player and Smith, the heckling fan.

Í love baseball," the judge remarked, "and I enjoy going to the games just as many others do. But I dislike the gambling that destroys the true sportsmanship of such an athletic event and I dislike the ugly, vindictive sort of words that are sometime used in addressing the ball players. I too, have become exasperated at the errors and stupidity of the players at times, but we must remember we do the same tings at times.

"The fans like to go to the games to have a good time and I am truly sorry that this has occurred.

"Smith was certainly wrong and today he has the sense to admit his mistake. Jiminez was wrong for going to the dressing room, getting his shower, then going down to Smith's box and causing the trouble. It was a mistake he realizes. But we must remember that Jiminez is from a Latin Country and it is human nature for the Latin's to become excited when we might remain calm.

Í have stopped the case with the consent of the attorneys for both parties and the solicitor and I take full responsibility of finding both parties not guilty of affray. I order them to stand here before me and shake hands on the matter."

Then he added Smith's file for gambling.

Three-To-One Bet Causes Trouble

The gambling charge came as a surprise to Smith. He was handed this warrant as he walked into the court room.

Evidence cropped up after the game Thursday night that he might have been wagering on the outcome of the Reidsville-Greensboro ball game. He had told policemen that he wanted Reidsville to win and there was one witness on the gambling angle, although no conclusive evidence.

His troubles with Jiminez, the dark-skin Cuban, came when he called the Patriot pitcher "Satchel Paige" several times during the opening innings. Ol' Satchel as you probably know is the star Negro pitcher for the Cleveland Indians.

Attorney Norman Boren questioned Smith on the gambling phase but it brought a denial that he had any money placed on the outcome of the game. However, Smith's testimony included the statement that he had bet three to one that Greensboro wouldn't score that inning. That was the second inning when the Pats got four runs.

What does all this mean? Petty gambling, accompanied by such ungentlemanly heckling, must be eliminated form the ball parks of the Carolina League. Smith's banishment is an excellence start on the part of the league president. But ball players must learn to take such razzing from the fans. They have no license to go into the stands with fists clinched. Ball players aren't forced to play ball, you know. They can quit if they don't like it.

Judge Rives has the perfect analysis. President Brown had the prefect follow-through. The situation is well in hand.

September 1948

Lew Hester climaxed a brilliant season by pitching the Reidsville Luckies to an 11-7 victory over Danville in both teams final game. It was Hester's 25th hurling triumph of the season with the 7th place luckies.

The Greensboro Daily News
8 July 1948

Court Grants Continuance Of Trial Until September

Weingarten's Illness Forces Delay In Carolina League Baseball Case

Winston Salem- The case in which four men are charged with bribery and conspiracy in the "fixing" of a Carolina League baseball game here May 14 was continued in Forsyth County Superior Court today until next term, which will convene in September.

A motion for continuance was made by Joe Johnson, attorney for Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten because of the "critical illness" of his client and was granted by Judge Allen Gwynn.

Johnson presented the court with a certificate from Dr. A.J. Tannenbaum of Greensboro saying that Weingarten is "critically ill" and adding "his outcome is dubious."

Solicitor Walter Johnston after receiving information as to the serious condition of the former minor league club owner, agreed to the continuance although he said the state was ready for the trial.

Weingarten, Barney DeForge, former player-manager of the Reidsville club of the Carolina League and Tommy Phillips and W.C. McWaters, two used car dealers of Clover, S.C. were indicted under true bills returned by the grand jury just a few hours before the case was continued.

All four men were indicted by the grand jury for conspiracy and all except Phillips were also named in bribery counts-Weingarten and McWaters for giving a bribe and DeForge for taking a bribe-involving the game which DeForge has admitted that he threw against Winston-Salem here.

The indictment stated that the four agreed among themselves and with "diverse and other reasons" unknown to the grand jury to offer bribe and to bribe DeForge to lose the game (in a game rained out at Durham two days earlier previous to the game here and to which DeForge admitted he had conferred with McWaters about throwing was also mentioned in the grand jury indictment; to incite him to commit unlawful acts of "omission and commission" so his team would lose; and to cause Reidsville to lose the Winston-Salem game by at lest three runs so bets on the result would be won by conspirators.

Ed Weingarten was still unconscious in St. Leo's Hospital here last night and his physician said his chance for recovery was still slim.

It was stated, however, that "he's fighting hard and we haven't given up hope for him by any means." It was also reported that it may be a matter of days before his condition makes a distinct change for the better or worse.

The former baseball club owner has been in a coma since Monday afternoon.

The Greensboro Daily News
7 July 1948

League's Class B Jump Not Executive Problem

During the past three years the Carolina League bred some tough decisions for Tom Wilson, the chief executive, but never did the good doctor have one the likes of Carroll Brown's current predicament. He has been asked to cast the deciding vote whether the league goes to Class B.

First request for such a decision came at the league's meeting last week. He excused himself.

Then the clubs voted again by telegraph last Monday and it was 4-4 all over again. Brown excused himself or at least he begged for an extension of time to do some investigation of the possibilities should he cast a B vote.

But the decision shouldn't be Brown's. No league President should ever be asked to cast a vote because this is the business of the directors pocketbooks. They have split on the rise to Class B baseball. No executive could conscientiously make a ruling under the circumstances. In fact, even a 5-3 vote would not be conclusive evidence that the league as a whole was ready for B ball.

But a league president should not called upon for this task. It's strictly a decision for the club owners. After all, it's their investment that's at stake.

Minor Explains Burlington Stand

It has been thought that Burlington might change its vote a boost in classification. But the Bees did not in the latest tabulation.

Richard Minor, sports editor of the Burlington Times-News, carried the following article during the week:

"Explaining his stand, (Club President Jack) May pointed out that the proposed change would mean higher operating costs, which would demand increased admission prices, possibly to as much as 85 cents. And he expressed doubt that the brand of ball to be notably better, at least not enough better to justify a substantial boost in the gate charges.

"Burlington was one of the two clubs in the Carolina League that did not raise the admission prices this year, and May said.....that no increase is planned for next season unless conditions change. A drop in attendance has cut the club's income heavily this season, but the owners are not complaining about the support given by local fans. The outlook for class C ball here again next year is good, but class B would be an experiment that might prove costly.

"Prior to the war Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Durham were in the Class B Piedmont League at various times-----and Raleigh was a member many years ago----but none of the Class B clubs in those cities ever made any profit, and only occasionally did one ever make expenses. Each club had major league backing at that time."

Hudson Gives Martinsville Story

The Martinsville club has taken on a new light . It had been understood that if the league went to Class B, the Philadelphia A's would withdraw from Martinsville. That would have left the league with a vacancy which is one big determining factor in all the discussion, it might be added, despite the possibility of Charlotte coming in.

But R.D. Hudson of the Martinsville News Bulletin sheds a different light on the city's continued membership in the league. He writes:

"Martinsville will likely be without a team in the Carolina league next season. The crowds at the local park this year have been disappointing in view of the fact that the Athletics have placed one of the best teams of the league on the field.

"If Martinsville is compiled to drop down to Class D in baseball, it will not be a good advertisement for the city but that is what will likely happen.

"The Marts have been playing great ball lately and deserve more support from the fans. The attendance this year has been approximately 10 per cent larger than last year to date. All of the local factories were not in full-time operation during the summer and his fact probably cut the attendances figures. Martinsville has a number of great fans but it appears as though the number is too limited for baseball."

Does this mean Martinsville will not even be in a Class C Carolina League in 1949? Problems continue to rise, it seems, and the class B questions might become only a portion of the over-all discussion. But the league president shouldn't be called upon to settle this one. That's the job the club owners might take upon themselves.....at the next meeting this month.

The Greensboro Daily News
9 July 1948

Lew Surmises Legal Job On DeForge All-Essential

Concord – One of the most interesting sidelights to baseball's bribery and gambling trial which has gone into the state's courts concerning Manley Llewellyn's position as a lawyer for Barney DeForge. But it has been cleared. It simply isn't so.

It would seem, matter-of-factly for DeForge, the ball player who was banned for life from his profession, to select any lawyer to his choosing.

But when he announced at the hearing in Winston-Salem municipal court that his lawyer would be Llewellyn, it drew almost as much comment as DeForge's own testimony. The reason was simple. Llewellyn, you see, is president of the Tri-State League and his association with organized ball caused all the comment.

"Actually I was never hired by DeForge to represent him," Lew observed today, pausing from the league's busy plans preparatory to the annual all-star game in Asheville next Wednesday. His league matches the leading club against the all-stars, gives all the boys expensive, matching rings.

He continued: "After the hearing at Columbus, Ohio, Barney had said something to me about defending him if the case came into the North Carolina courts. I couldn't give him an answer at the time and when I thought it over; I realized my connection with professional baseball would make it impossible to me to do so."

Trautman said the National Association backed up Lew on his decision. In fact, you might say that they pushed it along such lines, but the Concord lawyer was one step ahead of the big boys of organized ball all the time. He never committed himself without first getting Trautman's approval.

It Could Be Advantageous

Actually, however, Lew feels that he might have used DeForge to the advantages of organized ball.

"On the surface of the thing," he pointed out, "it would be emphasized that baseball was supporting DeForge.

"Right now, I understand that the National Association has requested that the leagues in the state to provide additional counsel for the state solicitor in the prosecution of the four men involved (Manny Weingarten, DeForge, Tom Phillips and W.C. McWaters), Carroll Brown (president of the Carolina League) called me the other day about that but I haven't had a chance to get the approval of my directors.

"I don't know just how special counsel will work, but it would seem to me that it could be of most help in assisting DeForge.

"Here the way the DeForge angle has been analyzed. His testimony is paramount in the trial, since the other three have denied all charges and tended to present evidence to dispute the whole charge that was brought out in the National Association's hearings. The other witnesses have evidence to substantiate DeForge's facts, such as proving the other three defendants met from time to time.

"Wouldn't it seem most important to organized baseball to having a lawyer helping DeForge?

He was naturally referring to the possibility that DeForge could shut up like a clam, and then what?

Of course, along the lines of the hearing at Columbus as to Winston-Salem, it is doubtful if the former ORD Hawk, pitcher and ex-Reidsville manager would change over so suddenly. He seems determined to tell the story.....come hell or high water.

Fell Victim Of Circumstances

"You know, I actually felt sorry for him," Lew said in reference to DeForge. "I felt that DeFore was a victim of circumstances and the other three men were the ones which organized baseball should concentrate upon when the case came into the courts of our state."

He was expressing the opinion of many people in the state in regards to DeForge. The realized he had been sucked into a situation, although he was a grown man and knew what he was doing. It seems, Lew states, that Barney knew what was to come when he signed the contract with Weingarten to manage the Reidsville ball club. That occurred the previous winter. Barney was to get $6,000 for services during the year...including the "extracurricular" activities.

With that in mind, it is hard to build much sympathy for DeForge, however, at least on my particular part.

Just what will come from the state courts, the case continued until September as Defendant Weingarten lies in Greensboro's St. Leo's Hospital seriously ill, is a matter of considerably conjecture. Each of them can get five year imprisonment although DeForge on the basis of his testimony which has held together the trial, would undoubtedly draw a lenient sentence from any judge.

What the continuance means is also open for discussion. Public opinion right now is high against baseball's Juilases but what will it be two months hence."

Lew in the meantime reads the sports pages religiously to learn the progress of the case. He attended the hearing in Winston-Salem as a spectator, ended up as "unofficial" attorney for DeForge. But he is back as a spectator and wondering, like you, just what will happen.

5 July 1948

But the Leaksville folks should be the ones to gripe. Trautman, undoubtedly have the facts that had been presented to the press hereabouts, said he allowed the Blur Ridge League to retain Abingdon, Va., as a new franchise placed by the league president, Stanley Radke.

Even so, Leaksville folks can laugh at what is really going on. Wytheville men...one "former" club owner there...bought the Leaksville club. That was June 1. Leaksville led the league with a 26-16 record. Wytheville was last with 14-29. Since then, the club was broke up beyond recognition by the Wytheville interest, the team has won one game, has had one previous victory taken away by the league president, has lost 18 games. Abingdon is now 26-34, but still ahead of Wytheville which can sport only 23-37.

The Greensboro Daily News
9 July 1948

Radke Resigns Blue Ridge Position

Talk Revived Of Returning Trips To Loop

Important Meeting At Galax On Sunday

And now there are plenty of loops in the Blue Ridge. Stanley F. Radke of Roanoke, Va., yesterday resigned as president of the Blue Ridge baseball league. Revived with this development is the hope that Leaksville will rejoin the league.

Radke resignation came at the request of the league directors, who wrote him to that effect of July 3. At that time, they asked him to step down because they felt a man was needed who could give full time to league duties, attend league games and be located in the league area.

He complied yesterday in a letter to the directors. He stated that in view of the position taken he was "very" glad to tender my resignation at president of the Blue Ridge League effective immediately.

After receiving Radke's letter, Judge E.O. Bevins of Mt. Airy, vice-president of the league, immediately called a meeting of the board of directors for Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The Bluemont Hotel in Galax will be the scene of the important session.

Brown Top Name

Several persons have been mentioned as possible successors. Foremost is Carroll Brown, Carolina League president. If Brown is available for the job (and he hasn't said yes or no) his name will surely crop up at Galax Sunday. Officials at Galax are expected to place before the directors the name of Bob Nelson, former vice-president of the league.

Concurrent with the talk of a new president has been the discussion centering around the Abingdon-Leaksville situation. And league officials have made it that they will seek to relocate the franchise at Leaksville.

Several reasons have been given for this: (1) Abingdon hasn't drawn a large crowd all season and club officials are losing money (2) Abingdon hasn't won a single game that has counted in the standings since the franchise was shifted to the Virginia city (3) League officials are solidly behind Leaksville and want the Rockingham County city back in the fold.

When the Leaksville franchise changed hands, Bernard Loman, a veteran Greensboro infielder, managed the club.....and he and the Triplets were riding in first place. A glance at the standings today will disclose that Abingdon on the bottom of the league....and still losing.

"I don't how all this will work out," stated one of the leading league officials last night. "But I can say that we are going to try to get Leaksville back in the league----it all possible."

Manager Problem

It is not known whether Loman will return as manager of the Trips if and when Leaksville is reinstated. He could not be reached for comment here last night.

Representatives from Radford, Mt. Airy, Abingdon, North Wilkesboro, Wytheville and Galax will be at the meeting Sunday along with Leaksville officials or representatives.

Miss Kathryn King, business manager of the Leaksville club, could not be reached for a statement last night.

The Leaksville-Abingdon case started when Manny Weingarten was banned from organized baseball. He owned the Leaksville franchise, but was forced to release it to the league. Leaksville interests sought to buy the franchise and they charged that Radke transferred it to Abingdon before they had a chance to buy it.

Leaksville fans protested and Miss King made a trip to the office of George Trautman, minor league czar, to present her case. Radke was also summoned and evidently held the trump card, for Trautman ruled that the franchise would stay in Abingdon.

Now comes the registration of Radke....and a new picture.

The year 1948 in the Carolina had it low points but the first Carolina League All-Star games in Greensboro had some of the best players that ever wore the uniform of a Carolina League Team. There were four players from the Reidsville team including Lew Hester who won 26 games for the year. Many of the other all-stars would wear a Reidsville uniform in the next five years.

The Greensboro Daily News
10 July 1948

Probable Line-Ups Today

WEST

Pos.	Player	Team	Average	Years in League
2b	Jean Frye	Reidsville	.326	'48
3b	George Wright	Martinsville	.327	'48
rf	Bob Downing	Reidsville	.335	'47-'48
1b	Eddie Morgan	Martinsville	.395	'48
cf	Woody Fair	Danville	.357	'46-'47-'48
lf	Russell Sullivan	Danville	.329	'48
c	Joe Kratzer	Martinsville	.311	'48
ss	Tee Frye	Winston-Salem	.253	'47-'48
p	Mason Bowes	Martinsville	8-7	'47-'48
Extra	Players:			
p	Jack Frisinger	Winston-Salem	11-4	'48
p	Lou Hester	Reidsville	13-6	'47-'48
p	Paul Willis	Danville	9-2	'48
inf	Joe Trotta	Reidsville	.278	'46-'47-'48
inf	Bill Nagel	Reidsville	.336	'47-'48
of	Pat Cooper	Martinsville	.314	'47-'48
of	Bill LaFrance	Martinsville	.345	'48
c	Ed Lippeatt	Winston-Salem	.289	'48
mgr	Zip Payne	Winston-Salem	——	'46-'47-'48

EAST

Pos.	Player	Team	Average	Years in League
3b	Sheepy Lamb	Greensboro	.228	'46-'47-'48
cf	Buddy Bates	Burlington	.356	'47-'48
1b	Dave Baxter	Burlington	.339	'46-'47-'48
lf	Willie Duke	Durham	.267	'47-'48
rf	Emo Showfety	Greensboro	.337	'46-'47-'48
2b	Crash Davis	Durham	.318	'48
ss	Jimmy Edwards	Raleigh	.297	'47-'48
c	Norm Wilson	Burlington	.268	'47-'48
p	Al Henencheck	Raleigh	9-9	'46-'47-'48
Extra	Players:			
p	Mickey McPadden	Durham	11-7	'47-'48
p	Raymond Pate	Greensboro	7-5	'47-'48
p	Oswald Kolwe	Durham	7-6	'48
inf	Johnny Clayton	Burlington	.264	'47-'48
inf	Glenn Lockamy	Raleigh	.329	'46-'47-'48
of	Bobby Falk	Greensboro	.315	'46-'47-'48
of	Mal Stevens	Durham	.331	'47-'48
c	Paul Crawford	Durham	.279	'45-'46-'47-'48
mgr	Buddy Bates	Burlington	——	'47-'48

The Greensboro Daily News
10 July 1948
Third Strike!
Weingarten Dies At Hospital Here
Former Patriot Official Charged With Baseball Bribery Now Dead

Emanuel Weingarten died of uremia at St. Leo's Hospital here yesterday at 10 a.m. and his body was shipped at 9:30 last night to Brooklyn where burial will be held at Beth David Cemetery.

He was awaiting trial in North Carolina's court for bribery and conspiracy in conjunction with a "fixed" Carolina League baseball game in Winston-Salem May 14.

Already he had been banned from organized baseball along with Barney DeForge, and the two were facing state laws which carried up to five years imprisonment as penalty. Two used car dealers were also involved in the charges.

Three days ago after Weingarten appeared in Winston-Salem Municipal court at which time the defendants were bounded over for Superior court, he entered the hospital here with a blocked kidney. An operation here last winter had removed the other kidney. The trial in Superior Court, scheduled only last Wednesday was continued at Weingarten's lawyer's request.

Disposition of the charges upon Weingarten's death remained in doubt. He had been seriously ill a week ago, but apparently passed a major crisis Wednesday. He went back into a coma early yesterday morning and died of uremia.

A native of New York, he had lived in Ohio and California before coming here in January 1945, as manager of the Star Credit Clothing Company. He founded the Greensboro Exhibition Corporation and bought the local baseball franchise. They also obtained the Dixie League pro football franchise, but a huge financial deficit caused a riff in which Weingarten took the football and the corporation the baseball team. However, Weingarten remained in baseball as owner of the Reidsville club in the Tri-State League in 1947, of the Florence club in the Tri-State and the Leaksville club in the Blue Ridge League in 1948. He was banned from baseball late in May although he denied all charges in the confession of DeForge.

He was 44 years of age and was known in baseball as Ed Weingarten. Surviving are his wife, the former Leah Appleton; one son, Julian Arnold of Lyons, New Jersey; his mother, Mrs. Sarah Weingarten of Brooklyn; and one sister, Mrs. Anna Spanier of Florence, S.C. Funeral Services will be held Sunday at I.J. Morris Funeral Home in Brooklyn with burial at Beth David Cemetery.

The Weingartens resided at 811 Walker Avenue.

The Greensboro Daily News
30 July 1948

Blue Ridge Blues

Abingdon Resold; Bivins Heads League

National Association Sends Pitan For Investigation; '49 Plans Set

The Blue Ridge League, abundant in baseball troubles this season, weathered another siege of misfortune yesterday and in the words of the new, permanent president, Judge E.C. Bivins of Mt. Airy, the league is ready to step into eight clubs for 1949.

Franchise of the Abington, Va. club has been forfeited to the league Wednesday morning when directors went into a session at Wytheville, Va.....a session that lasted for seven hours and included more heat than the outside thermometer.

But late yesterday afternoon a group of Abingdon citizens, headed by D.D. Quary, guaranteed the fulfillment of the franchise obligations in Abingdon, and that club will remain in the league for the reminder of this season.

Pitain Present

The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues was represented at the Wytheville meeting by Phillip Pitan, assistant to the president, George Trautman. He also worked in Abingdon yesterday to help clear up that matter. While no official statement could be obtained from any league officers, it was learned that Pitain made special investigation into contract relations between the old Leaksville franchise (now Abingdon) and the Wytheville club.

At Wednesdays secretive meeting Judge Bivins, who had been serving as temporary executive following the requested registration of Stanley F. Radke of Roanoke, Va., was named to the permanent office. Hubert S. White of Galax, Va., was named vice-president to succeed Judge Bivins.

Ex-president Radke attended the Wytheville meeting. Plans for 1949 began immediately, stated Judge Bivins to the Daily News last night.

"We expect to go to eight clubs for next season with Leaksville franchise that still exists for that territory," he stated. "Mayodan has expressed interest, and we have heard that Pulaski, Va., may change leagues. It would be for the best interest of the clubs to have equal division among North Carolina and Virginia towns."

Payment Incomplete

When Manny Weingarten was banned from baseball for fixing a Carolina League game, his Leaksville franchise was forfeited to the Blue Ridge League. Despite bids from Leaksville-Spray-Draper citizens, League President Radke sold a "new franchise" to Abingdon and left Leaksville out. Bivins said that the sale was for $4,600 or $4,800, but only $2,390 had been paid into the office of Trautman. Ralph Calhoun, Martin Morales and Frank Geignas, all of Wytheville, bought the franchise. Bivins said they had been unable to raise the remainder of the money.

Bivins stated that those who would assume the Leaksville franchise for the 1949 season would have to liquidate the obligations of the old Lekasville club.

When Radke surprised the Leaksville supporters-----and the rest of the league as well-----with the sale to Abingdon, the Leaksville was leading the league with a 26-16 record. That was June 19th. Last night Abingdon...supposedly the same club...had a record of 29-55 in the cellar. The team with the most of its players "traded" to Wytheville has thus won three games while losing 39.

The Greensboro Daily News
30 July 1948

Weingarten In Hospital

Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten banned from professional baseball for life on a bribery charges from a Carolina League game and facing trial in superior court in Winston-Salem on the next docket, was declared in "serious but not immediately critical" condition at St. Leo's Hospital here yesterday.

His nurses stated that he had spent most of the night in a coma but had come out of it at 11 a.m. yesterday. He was suffering with a blocked kidney, the nurse told the Daily News.

The former general manager of the Greensboro Patriot ball club and more recently owner of the Leaksville and Florence, S.C. clubs, was admitted to the local hospital Tuesday.

Seriousness of the illness was emphasized by the fact that Weingarten had undergone an operation here last winter when his other kidney was removed. The nurse stated that an operation now was "Out of question." His "general condition" was called improved last night but it would be "a day or two" before any crisis would have been passed, the nurse reported.

Weingarten has lived here since early in 1945 when he was manager of the Star Credit Clothing Co. That fall he organized the Greensboro Exhibition Corporation and bought the local baseball franchise. After the 1946 baseball season, during which the Patriots won the Carolina League pennant, he and the Corporation severed relationships with Weingarten taking the professional football franchise and the corporation retaining the baseball franchise. In 1947 Weingarten operated the Reidsville club in the Tri-State League and at the start of the current season, he owned the Florence club in the Tri-State League and the Leaksville club of the Blue Ridge League.

He and manager Barney DeForge of the Reidsville club were involved in the bribery charges from a league game in Winston-Salem, May 14th. George M. Trautman, president of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, banned both from organized baseball for life. Under North Carolina state laws, both were charged with a felony along with W.C. McWaters of Clover, S.C. and faced municipal court trial at Winston-Salem last week. They were bounded over until Superior Court which convenes early next month.

Weingarten's Attorney To Seek Continuance

2 July 1948

Ed Weingarten's Condition Still Termed Serious

Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, former baseball club owner who was recently banned from organized baseball for life, remained in St. Leo's Hospital here last night in a "serious" condition.

Weingarten was admitted to the local Hospital Tuesday night with a reported blocked kidney. One of his kidneys was removed in an operation a year ago.

Hospital officials reported that he was "feeling a little better" last night but hasten to say that his condition was still serious. They refused to say whether he had passed the crisis.

Mrs. Weingarten arrived here yesterday from New York.

3 July 1948

Joe W. Johnson, attorney for Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten said he would seek a continuance in the case charging Weingarten with bribery in connection with alleged "thrown" Carolina League baseball game here when it is filed in Forsyth Superior Court on July 7.

Weingarten, former Florence Tri-State League president is seriously ill at a Greensboro Hospital with a kidney ailment. Johnson said his client would not be able to stand trial and he would offer a disposition from a physician to this effect.

Weingarten, Barney DeForge, former pitcher-manager for Reidsville of the Carolina League, W.C. McWaters, Clover, S.C. used car dealer, are charged with bribery. Tommy Phillips, also of Clover, will face conspiracy charges.

Probable cause was found against the quartet in Municipal Court last week. DeForge and Weingarten have been banned from organized baseball for life by Minor League baseball League Head George M. Trautman.

Weingarten's Condition Now Somewhat Improved

3 July 1948

Emanuel Weingarten former baseball official who was banned from baseball by Minor League President George M. Trautman, remained in serious condition at St. Leo's Hospital last night, but attending physicians stated that they were "encouraged by his progress."

Weingarten is suffering from a kidney ailment. He has to be placed under an oxygen tent intermittently.

The Greensboro Daily News
August 1948

Lewis Hester Wins 21.....With Seventh-Place Club

It is an outstanding feat for a pitcher in organized baseball to win 20 or more games in a single season with a first division team. But when a pitcher with a seventh-place club wins 21 games with nearly a month to play remaining, the feat approaches sensationalism.

The Carolina League, Reidsville in this case, has such a sensational man....Lewis Hester, who last week hurled two big victories, Nos. 20 and 21 to become the league's first twenty game winner.

He pitched himself, too, onto the podium of honor in the Daily News. He is Athlete of The Week, 46th in a series of weekly honorees.

And as aforementioned, youthful Hester.....he's only 26.....didn't ascend into the ranks of the score-plus winners with a club that has lost 69 games, has operated under three different managers and is at the present struggling to keep out of the cellar.

His 21 victories, tops in the Carolina League, is only two short of the circuit record held jointly by Ken Deal and Art Fowler., respectively. And take it from smiling Lew, the going to better that mark by at least two before the curtain falls some three weeks hence.

To reached the selected circle of 20 Hester handcuffed the high flying Martinsville A's last Monday night. . Then he came back on Friday to drop similarly potent Burlington for No. 21.

It's Lew.....Officially.....Good Beginning

Now this man Hester has been going under what might be called an alias nearly all season. He has been called both "Louis" and "Lewis" by the press. But he mentions that by mentioning Lew Hayworth who was a high school teammate of his at High Point some years back.

"It's really Lewis," responds Hester, "just like Lew Hayworth, with whom I played with back in my highs school days. I graduated there back in 1938."

But Hester didn't go right into pro ball. It wasn't until 1941, in fact, that he threw his arm in into organized baseball ring, at New Bern in Class D Costal Plain League competition.

"I didn't have much of a chance to do anything that first year," replied Hester, "For the Army nabbed me after I had compiled a 4-1 record. And I didn't get back into the game until 1945 with Topeka, Kansas."

With the Western association, Class C Club in 1946 pulled up to the wire a 17-game winner, which led up to his entrance last year in North Carolina baseball.

He stayed with Topeka until mid-season last year, when he joined Reidsville's Tri-State entry. He won seven and lost 5 there before completing the 1947 campaign with Leaksville's death-bed Carolina League team. (Overall his record with the three clubs last year was 18-11).

This means this is just his first full season, and this year he has been nothing short of amazing in winning 21 while losing 11....many of which were heartbreakers.

For instance. "The best game I pitched all year," moans Hester, "I lost to Martinsville . It was a four-hitter and I uncorked a wild pitch early in the game that allowed three runs to score. I've pitched other good ones and lost, too."

Married Nick's Sister.....Beat Tech-Hawks

Hester is a member, by marriage, of another well-known athlete family in North Carolina. About a year ago he met and married Avra Sacrinty, while playing in Reidsville.

She's a sister of Nick and Bo of Wake Forest fame.....Nick now of pro fame with the Chicago Bears.

And during the war he turned in quite a record as a star pitcher with Ft. Patrick Henry, Va. (All this after having served a long term as an infantry sergeant in North Africa) Playing with such major league stars Steve Sundra, Tommy Hughes and Elmo Valo, he beat Greensboro ORD's Tech-Hawks, the strong Norfolk Training station nine, Camp Lee and many others.

"That was some victory I pitched here," quoting Hester, "I beat them 9-1(George Grander started for the Tech-Hawks), "and I struck out Grady Hatton (now with Cincinnati) three times before he finally touched me for a home-run....the only run I yielded during the fracas."

Jumping back into the immediate past tense, Hester recalls his two victories. Hester recalls his two victories over Danville as his biggest thrills, scores of 3-2 and 3-1, in addition he stopped Martinsville a total of five times...the most he has beat any one team.

And strangely enough it is the lowly Patriots who have mastered him mostly effectively this year. "I've defeated them only once," he relates and they have been responsible for one of my setbacks."

Hester has a lot of praise for his Reidsville teammates, despite their league position. "The boys have backed me up wonderful well," he proudly reports. "They are a good bunch of boys and with the same support I'm going to win 25 games or die trying."

His record's fine, his ambition is better and it's a cinch that today's Daily News Athlete of the Week will draw a lot of attention in the future....and not in Class C ball either.

The Greensboro Daily News
28 August 1948

President Has Deciding vote For Class Rise'
Directors Table Resignation Action

Burlington---Greensboro goes back to Class B baseball for the first time since the 1942 Piedmont League and the occasion was the all important of the vote of the Carolina League President Carroll Brown at the directors meeting here today.

Brown's resignation was then tabled although the two decisions had no relationship. For the third time the clubs cast a tie vote.....Greensboro, Raleigh, Danville and Winston-Salem for class B....Burlington, Reidsville, Martinsville and Durham for the Class C status which the league has enjoyed since its birth in 1945.

But this time the league president was given the nod from the directors to break the tie. On the motion of Rudy Knipe of Raleigh, seconded by Jack May of Burlington, the president was instructed to cast the deciding vote. There had been much public expression that on such an important matter the final decision should be made by the clubs themselves.

Brown, the young man from Martinsville in his first year as a baseball executive gave a brief dissertation on the pros and cons of the situation. At first he said he would give his decision after the directors had lunch but he was urged to make it then. Just at the noon hour President Brown concluded the talk; "We will go to B ball."

In 1949 there will be 13 class men, four required men (rookies and limited service men).

That was it, the conclusion of a long and drawn out argument that had threatened to rival the photo finish in the standings for the fans attention in August and September.

It was unofficially announced that the rise to B ball meant that the Philadelphia Athletics would withdraw from Martinsville. Arthur Elhere, head of the A's farm system, had so informed league officials. It probably means Martinsville will apply for a spot in the Class D Blue Ridge League. A replacement then will be needed.

Reidsville will definitely stay in the Carolina League, President Phil Lundeen announced after the final decision. So will Burlington and Durham, but there has never been any doubt about that President Jack May of Burlington stated that the club had severed it working agreement with Atlanta for the future, added he was ready to sell the club to others now that B ball was in the offering. He had been opposed to rise in Classification.

Review Letter

In the closed session the directors reviewed a recent letter from President Brown offering his resignation due to certain differences of opinion with league directors. The letter had been submitted at a called meeting here Sunday, August 15th.

The matter was tabled until the annual meeting the first week in October; the directors neither accepted the resignation or renewing the contract for 1949. Vice-President Herb Brett of Danville presided at the closed session and told the Associated Press afterwards that the directors gave Brown "an expression of confidence." Other directors did not call it a confidence vote.

Play-off plans were discussed.....series to begin September 9 after a day's layoff.....$1,000 to players on pennant winning team. $2,000 to play-off winners and $1,000 to play-off runners up....price of tickets to series set at regular season rates.

President Brown warned the other ranking clubs that they must keep doing their best to win ball games and not start any loafing or they would be fined. Managers and front office men were held responsible. Durham and Greensboro were directly accused of this loafing.

14 August 1948

Reidsville's Lou Hester notched his 21st win of the season here tonight with a 3-2 victory over Burlington in a Carolina League encounter.

Dick Sipeks' fifth inning single scored Musumeci with the winning run. The Luckies bunched their six hits together and scored two runs in the first and again in the sixth for the loop win.

The Reidsville Review
13 May 1948

New Outfielder Arrives

Dick Sipek, ex-Cincinnati Red arrived in Reidsville Tuesday night and will probably appear in the Reidsville lineup tonight. Last year Sipek played in the Class A Sally League. He is expected to give the Luckies some power at the plate. He batted .350 in the AA Southern Association several years ago.

When the League directors meet in Burlington this morning one of the important items under discussion is a proposed class for the loop. The Carolina allowed the teams30 days to cut down to the six-man roster and those 30 days are nearly gone. The league is expected to favor the eight-man proposal now, although this same proposal was voted down last year.

The Greensboro Daily News
10 Sep 1948
Winston "Fix" Trial Again Moved Back
Session Postponed After First Day

Winston-Salem – The trial of the Carolina League's case of alleged baseball game "fixing" was rained out in the first inning today by a shower of ands, ors and ors.

The case will now probably come to trial at the October term of Forsyth County Superior Court. Judge Allan Gwyn postponed until that time a final decision in a defense motioning for quashing of the indictment against a pitcher and two Clover, S.C., second hand car dealers,

The pitcher, Bernard "Barney" DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville team and C.W. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, the automobile dealers, are charged with conspiring to arrange that Reidsville should lose a game to Winston-Salem by at least three runs here May 14.

Defense attorneys claimed that the indictment was "void for duplicity and uncertainly." The indictment, they said charged the defendants with conspiring "to lose a game and/or games between his "DeForge's" club and the Durham baseball club and/or the Winston-Salem baseball club by a score of at least three runs."

The attorneys said that they did know from the indictment who played whom, where and when.

Carlisle Higgins, retained by North Carolina professional baseball teams to assist Solicitor Walter E. Johnston, Jr. in the prosecution, told the court that he prepared the indictment in the form because conspiracy was charged and the "baseball stature" used "and/or" in prohibiting illegal attempts to influence the outcome of an athletic contest.

Judge Gwyn in dictating his decision, said "the court intimates" that the motion to quash, should be sustained because of "alternative charges" which would make it faulty. He postponed his decision he said to enable the state to examine the indictment.

A fourth defendant, Emanuel "Ed" Weingarten, former official of the Florence, S.C. and Leaksville ball teams has died since the indictments were returned.

DeForge, who was expected to plead guilty, was apparently not involved in the motion to quash the indictment. In the May 14 game he relieved another pitcher, walked four men and then threw a wild pitch. Winston-Salem won the game 3-2.

14 August 1948

New Bern – Talmadge "Tal" Abernathy, who had been manager of New Bern in the Class D Coastal Plain League for less than a month, has been sold to the Burlington Bees of the Class C Carolina League, it was revealed today.

Winstead "Bake" Palmer, ex-dike star with New Bern for the past two years, has been named to replace Abernathy.

In the Abernathy deal, Ryland Molley, pitcher who started the season with New Bern, was returned from Burlington to New Bern. An undisclosed amount of cash was involved in the deal.

The Reidsville Review

11 September 1948

Judge Gwyn Orders One Month Wait In DeForge Case

Winston-Salem – Three men charged with conspiracy and bribery to "fix" a baseball game today faced a one month delay for court action on their attorneys move to quash the indictments.

Superior Court Judge Allen Gwyn in effect continued the case when he ordered the motion to quash continued to the October term of Forsyth County Superior Court.

The indictment charges Barney DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville Luckies of the Carolina League and C.W. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, Clover, S.C. with the arranging for throwing of a baseball game last May 14 between Winston-Salem and Reidsville.

23 Oct 1948

McWaters and Phillips set Free
DeForge Sentenced To One Year

Winston-Salem – Bernard DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville team of the Carolina League, today was under a one-year prison sentence for accepting a bribe to throw a game to the Winston-Salem team this spring.

DeForge had pleaded guilty to the charge, saying that he guaranteed Reidsville would lose by at least runs in order to safe guard gamblers bets and that he received $300 when the game was over.

Appearing as defendants with DeForge in the trial which concluded yesterday were W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used-car dealers of Clover, S.C. However, both McWaters and Phillips were freed of charges they had offered DeForge the bribe.

DeForge testified the met McWaters and the late Emanuel Weingarten in a Reidsville hotel and conspired to "fix" the game. McWaters testified, however, that he had never met DeForge. Weingarten died of a Kidney Ailment before the case came to trial.

Both DeForge and Weingarten, former owner of the Reidsville and Winston-Salem teams, were barred from organized baseball for life by baseball commissioner A.B. Chandler.

24 October 1948

DeForge's Jail Term Stayed By Judge Gwyn

Winston-Salem – Barney DeForge, former Reidsville pitcher-manager whose testimony to minor league president George M. Trautman broke a Carolina game fixing scandal, today had his one-year jail sentence suspended. He had pleaded guilty to conspiracy and bribery charges to criminal proceedings and was sentenced Thursday.

Judge Allan Gwyn after a 30 minute hearing in Forsyth County superior Court this afternoon, suspended the sentence on recommendation of solicitor Walter E. Johnson, Jr., Sheriff Ernie G. Shore, Chief John M. Gold. DeForge will be on probation for five years.

Two used car dealers from Clover, S.C., W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips were acquitted of conspiracy and bribery charges by a jury after a four-day trial that ended Thursday. Ed Weingarten, former official of the Florence, S.C. and Lekasville baseball teams who had been named in an indictment died last summer of a kidney ailment. DeForge testified he was given $300 for throwing the Reidsville-Winston-Salem game last May as a relief pitcher.

The Reidsville Review
19 October 1948

Baseball Bribery Trial Underway
Gwyn Overrules Second Attempt By Defense Attorneys To Quash Indictment

Winston Salem – Former Reidsville Lucky baseball manager, Bernard V. "Barney" DeForge and W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used car dealers of Clover, S.C., went on trial yesterday in connection with the alleged throwing of a baseball game between Reidsville and Winston-Salem on May 14. The trial began after Judge Gwyn of Reidsville, overruled a second attempt to quash the indictment.

The defense witnesses were heard out of order since there was no court reporter at the trial yesterday. All of them-including Rev. W.H. Bowman, pastor of the Clover Presbyterian Church, A.Y. Cartwright Jr., York county representative in the South Carolina Legislature and Sheriff G.A. Moss of York County-testified that McWaters was of good character and reputation.

DeForge is charged with having thrown a Reidsville-Winston Salem baseball game on May 14 when he went in to pitch for the Reidsville club in the eighth inning . In the game DeForge walked several players and threw a wild pitch permitting Winston Salem to score three runs and win the game 5-0.

Also, DeForge, McWaters and Phillips are charged with having conspired to have Winston-Salem win the game by three runs.

In municipal Court, several weeks ago DeForge testified that he was paid $300 by McWaters after the game was over.

Emmanuel Weingarten, former owner of the Leaksville and Florence, S.C. baseball clubs, was named to the indictment, but he died of a kidney ailment this summer.

The new indictment drawn by Solicitor Walter Johnson Jr., charged:

1. That all four of the defendants-Weingarten (deceased), McWaters, Phillips and DeForge.....did....conspire.....to cause Bernard DeForge-----to commit willful acts of omission and commission in the playing of a baseball game on the 14th of May 1948 between.....(the) Reidsville Baseball Club and the Winston-Salem Baseball Club with intent to cause the said Reidsville Baseball Club to lose said game and to commit willful acts or omission and commission in playing and directing the playing of baseball games between said Reidsville Baseball Club and other teams of the Carolina League scheduled to be played during the year 1948, with interest to cause the said Reidsville Baseball Club to lose said baseball game.
2. That McWaters, Weingarten and Phillips did conspire.....did bribe and offer to bribe DeForge with similar intent regarding the Winston-Salem game and others games during 1948.
3. That the three "did bribe and offer a bribe." DeForge with intent to influence the Winston-Salem game and other games in 1948.
4. That DeForge "did accept and agree to accept a bribe "offered for the purpose of influencing the Winston-Salem game and other games in 1948.

The defense attorneys-five strong-claimed among other contentions, that (1) DeForge couldn't conspire with himself, as alleged in the first count (2) the indictment contained duplication and uncertainty because it referred to other games during 1948 not specified.

They claimed the first and second counts constituted the same alleged offense, while the State contended they referred to separate crimes.

Fred Fogler, Mt. Airy attorney is defending DeForge. Archie Elkridge, H. Bryce Parker and Joe Johnson, Winston-Salem attorneys and Ernest Warren of Gastonia are appearing for McWaters and Phillips. Solicitor Johnston and Carlyle Higgins, local attorneys are handling the prosecution.

The Greensboro Daily News
19 October 1948

DeForge and Two Others Go On Trial at Winston

Winston Salem, Oct. 18 – Bernard V. DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville baseball team in the Carolina League and W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, Clover, S.C. used car dealers, went on Trial today in Forsyth Superior Court on charges of bribery and conspiracy in connection with the alleged throwing of a baseball game between Reidsville and Winston-Salem last May 14.

Judge Allen H. Gwyn denied a defense motion to quash the indictment, but said he might change the indictment later if he found it necessary,

The defense claimed the four count indictment-the second one drawn in the case-contained uncertainty and duplication and would place their clients in jeopardy.

Emmanuel Weingarten, former official of the Leaksville and Florence, S.C. baseball teams was also named in the indictment. He died last summer of a kidney ailment.

Most of today was taken up with selection of a jury. Judge Gwyn allowed evidence to be introduced out of order and the defense put character witnesses on the stand for McWaters.

Testifying that McWaters was a man of good character and reputation were Rev. W.H. Bowman, pastor of Clover Presbyterian Church; State Representative A.Y. Cartwright Jr. of Clover, S.C. and Sheriff C.A. Moss of York County, S.C. Judge Gwyn allowed the defense evidence out of order due to absence of a court reporter.

DeForge is charged with having thrown the Winston Salem-Reidsville game when he went in to pitch for Reidsville in the eight inning. DeForge is alleged to have walked several players and thrown a wild pitch allowing Winston-Salem to score three runs and win the ball game, 5-0.

DeForge is alleged to have conspired with Phillips and McWaters to throw the game. He testified at the Municipal Court hearing McWaters paid him $300.

The Greensboro Daily News
20 October 1948

DeForge Tells Story In Court At Winston

Winston-Salem, Oct. 13 – Bernard DeForge's story of "throwing" at Winston Salem-Reidsville baseball game here May 14 and lengthy wrangling by attorneys over the indictment marked the second day of the bribery-conspiracy trial of three men in Forsyth Superior Court today.

For the third time the defense counsel tried to quash the indictment against DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville baseball team in the Carolina League and W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, Clover, S.C., used car dealers.

Defense counsel also asked that the case against Phillips be non suited since his attorneys contended that there was no definite evidence that he was in on the bribery and conspiracy to throw the May 14 baseball game.

Judge Allen H. Gwyn overruled both motions after a heated discussion between the defense and the prosecution.

DeForge spent most of the day on the witness stand and told his story of alleged bribery amid a barrage of objections by defense counsel.

DeForge testified he met McWaters and Emmanuel Weingarten, former official of the Leaksville and Florence, S.C., baseball teams, who died last summer and was also named in the bill of indictments at a Reidsville hotel. He said McWaters asked Weingarten which were the best towns in which to place bets and four were designated—Winston-Salem, Durham, Burlington and Danville, Va. He testified it was arranged that McWaters would get in touch with him in Durham on May 12 and it was arranged for the game that day to be "fixed." The game was rained out.

Two days later, DeForge testified McWaters met him here and it was arranged for him to substitute himself in the game with Winston-Salem that night and that Reidsville was to lose the game by two runs.

DeForge said he went into the game in the eighth innings that night with Winston-Salem ahead by two runs. He said he walked three men and threw a wild pitch, allowing Winston-Salem to score three more runs. He said he did this intentionally to "throw" the game.

McWaters met him that night after the game, DeForge said, and gave him $300 in $100 bills.

DeForge did not mention Phillips and on cross-examination he did not know Phillips. The trial will continue Wednesday morning.

The Greensboro Daily News
Friday, 22 October 1948

DeForge Sentenced

Ex-Reidsville Manger Gets One-Year Term

South Carolinas Go Free In Case

Winston-Salem, Oct. 21 – Two Clover, S.C. used car dealers, W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips were acquitted by Forsyth County Superior Court Jury today on a charge of conspiracy and bribery in connection with Carolina League's case of alleged baseball game "fixing."

However, Bernard DeForge, 31-year-old pitcher-manager of the Reidsville team, who pleaded guilty to the charge, was sentenced by Judge Allen H. Gwyn to serve one year in prison. A fourth defendant, Ed Weingarten, former owner of the Florence, S.C. and Leaksville baseball clubs, died last summer.

DeForge told the jury that he, McWaters and Weingarten first discussed a proposed "throwing" of Carolina League games in a Reidsville hotel on the afternoon of May 10. Subsequently, he said, he saw to it that his team lost to Winston-Salem here May 14 by at least three runs and McWaters later gave him $300. They had, meanwhile he said, been a meeting in Durham.

McWaters said that on May 10 he did not arrive at the hotel until about 7 p.m. However, a room clerk testified that McWaters registered there at 2:56 p.m., talked with Weingarten and a man thought to be DeForge in the lobby, then, the witness thought, went up the elevator with them.

Judge Gwyn commented that DeForge's evidence on the Durham meeting "in all its entirety unsatisfactory," and added:

Jury's Verdict

"I have no doubt that he DeForge met in Reidsville with Weingarten and McWaters. The jury has spoken and of course, they do their best under oath and it is not up to anybody to criticize them...so far as I am concerned there is no system."

"But I feel that the truth was with the state so far as that meeting in Reidsville was concerned. I am thoroughly convinced of that....the evidence as to Phillips is not satisfactory."

Turning to DeForge, the judge said, "You are one of the most pathetic figures I have ever seen in a court room."

"I think that baseball is one of the truest and finest expressions of the American spirit," he continued. "Anybody who tampers with and undertakes to corrupt it and does corrupt it, does violent to America and irreparable damage to the people weary and wore out to go out and renew their spirits.....

Punishment Important

"I am sorry. I know that in view of the co-operation you have given in this case, no one will welcome you serving a term. You didn't do this alone..... your offense is bad , though not as bad as that of some others.....if the public ever got the notion that baseball was not on the level, damage would done to the American spirit. Therefore, it is the certain of punishment that is important."

Fred Folger of Mount Airy, attorney for DeForge, told the court that his client had no previous criminal record and pointed out that he had from the beginning co-operated with law enforcement officers in the case.

DeForge was given until Saturday morning to begin serving his term. He is married and the father of one child.

The Reidsville Review

22 Oct 1948

Bribery Incident Cut To Two Counts

McWaters Denies Any Connection In Case; Judge To Charge Jury Today

Winston-Salem – Judge Allan H. Gwyn reduced the number of counts from four to two in the incidment returned by a Forsyth County grand jury in the baseball-bribery trial being held here, Judge Gwyn acted on a motion by defense attorneys at the end of all evidence in the trial.

Two counts remaining in the indictment charge that that Barney DeForge, then manager of the Reidsville Luckies, W.C. McWaters, Tommy Phillips, Clover, S.C., used car dealers and the late Ed Weingarten, former owner of the Leaksville and Florence S.C. clubs conspired to arrange a bribe and did bribe DeForge to see that Reidsville lost a game with Winston-Salem by at least three runs here on May 14th

Higgins Opens Arguments

Carlisle Higgins retained by baseball interests as private prosecution in the case, was the first attorney to make his argument telling the jurors that "if the game of baseball is ever destroyed in the country, it will be destroyed by gamblers and not by those that play it."

"It will be destroyed," he said "by those who take money away from folks rather than work for it and earn it as God intended they should."

DeForge pleaded guilty and Tuesday testified that the bribe and the "fixing" of baseball games were first discussed at the Belvedere Hotel in Reidsville on the afternoon of May 10th at a meeting attended by the pitcher, Weingarten and McWaters. DeForge said that after the May 14th game, which Winston-Salem won 5 to 0, McWaters paid him $300 in currency.

McWaters Denies Charges

McWaters denied everything yesterday. He said he had never met DeForge and that on May 10th; he left Washington at about 11 a.m. and did not arrive at the Belvedere Hotel until about 7 p.m.

Mrs. Rosa M. Hall, Belvedere room clerk testified that McWaters registered at the hotel at 2:48 p.m. on that afternoon, that Weingarten and a man she thought was DeForge had waited for him in the lobby, that they had a discussion there and then left the lobby, she thought by the elevator. A registration card bearing McWater's name and hour 2:46 stamped on it by electric clock was introduced as evidence.

McWaters said that after registering and eating, he spent the night alone in his hotel room and left Reidsville Gastonia early the next morning. On the day of the game, May 14th, he said, he attended a used car auction sale at Greensville, S.C., left there at about 4 p.m. and arrived at home in Clover, S.C. at 8:45 p.m. and did not leave his house all evening.

Says He Did Not Know Of Game

He knew nothing of the game, he testified, until, about three weeks later, he read about it in a Washington newspaper. His name was mentioned in connection with it, he said and he had surrendered to Charlotte police.

C.B. _____ and W.H. Jones of Washington testified that they saw McWaters in Washington between 8 and 11 a.m. on May 10th, before his return to North Carolina with two cars.

Miss Mary Garber, Sentinel sports writer who scored the May 10th game, said that with Winston-Salem leading 2-0, DeForge entered the game in the eighth inning, walked three men and then threw a wild pitch, bringing the score to 5-0.

McWaters And Phillips Free
DeForge Sentenced To One Year

Winston-Salem – Barney DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville Luckies of the Carolina League today was under a one year prison sentence for accepting a bribe to throw a game to the Winston-Salem team this spring.

DeForge had pleaded guilty to the charge, saying that he guaranteed that Reidsville would lose by at lest three runs in order to safeguard gambler's bets and that he received $3000 when the game was over.

Appearing as defendants with DeForge in the trial which concluded yesterday was W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used-car dealers of Clover, S.C. However, both McWaters and Phillips were freed of charges they had offered DeForge the bribe.

DeForge testified that he met McWaters and the late Ed Weingarten in a Reidsville hotel and conspired to "fix" the game. McWaters testified, however, that he had never met DeForge. Weingarten died of kidney ailment before the case came to trial.

Both DeForge and Weingarten former owner of the Reidsville and Winston-Salem teams, were barred from organized baseball for life by baseball commissioner A.B. Chandler.

By John Oliver

Barney DeForge has been sentenced to a year in prison for accepting a bribe to "throw" a game between Reidsville and Winston Salem on May 14th, but the parties who bribed DeForge to "throw" the game will not be punished. W.C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used car dealers of clover, S.C. were freed by a jury in Winston-Salem yesterday. Whether they and the late Ed Weingarten were the parties who bribed DeForge we do not know. We do know, however, that somebody bribed DeForge and the former manager said that Weingarten and McWaters were the guilty parties.

Here are some of the facts that came out in the trial. McWaters said he didn't even know DeForge. In that case, DeForge must have reached into a box full of names to come up with the name W.C. McWaters of Clover, S.C. and so the former Reidsville Luckie skipper decided he would pick on the poor soul as the man who bribed him to "throw" the game. McWaters denied that he met with DeForge and Weingarten in the Belvedere hotel on May 10th, stating that he left Washington about 11 a.m. and did not arrive Reidsville until 7 p.m. Miss Rosa Hall, Belvedere room clerk, testified that McWaters registered at the hotel 2:46 p.m. on that afternoon and they and she introduced as evidence a registration card bearing McWaters name and the hour 2:46 stamped on it by electric clock.

Mrs. Hall's testimony, along with DeForge's story on the incident, proved to be the only strong evidence against McWaters, however. They could not prove his presence in Winston-Salem on the night of the game. DeForge must pay the penalty for the crime, but it's a shame he has to go it alone. The guilty party or parties, whosever he or they may be are as free as you and I.

According to the testimony of DeForge, McWaters contacted DeForge on May 14 and set up a meeting at the Robert E. Lee Hotel in Winston-Salem for that afternoon. At the meeting McWaters instructed McForge to be sure that Reidsville lost the game by at least three runs. After the game, DeForge meet McWaters in the hotel lobby, at which time McWaters handed DeForge three $100 bills for his efforts. Weingarten totally denied DeForge statement, but it was established that Weingarten had been a guest at the Belvedere Hotel on the day in question and that he and McWaters were seen in conversation in the hotel lobby during the day.

DeForge expressed his regret over becoming involved in the incident. A veteran minor leaguer, he began his career with Beatrice of the Nebraska State League in 1937, later playing with Dayton, Ohio, Durham, Durham, North Carolina, Birmingham Alabama, Portsmouth, Virginia and Montreal, Canada. After three years in service during WWII, he joined Natchez, Mississippi in the Evangeline League in 1947, serving as player-manager. When confronted with the evidence, DeForge stated "I don't know why I did it. I guess it was just a weak moment. I thought I was being smart." The history of the Evangeline League suggested that the seeds of corruption were sown during his membership in that league. The Evangeline League would have been an excellent place to learn about baseball corruption.

After Troutman's action the directors of the Blue Ridge League declared that Weingarten's Leaksville Franchise was forfeited. They decided that the club would be operated by the league until new owners were found.

Baseball was powerless to take any action on its own against gambler McWaters who instigated the whole affair but in the wake of the Black Sox scandal, North Carolina had passed a statute making a bribe of a baseball player, umpire or official a felony. Upon conviction the person in question would be confined to a state penitentiary for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years.

DeForge, Weingarten and McWaters were all arrested in early June and released on bond. DeForge cooperated fully with authorities, admitting his role in the scandal and providing evidence against Weingarten and McWaters.

On June 14, Ed Weingarten was again arrested in Florence, South Carolina. On June 24 DeForge, Weingarten, McWaters and gambler Tom Phillips were indicted in Forsyth County, North Carolina and charged with conspiracy. A trial date was set for July 7 but end up being postponed because Weingarten became ill with a kidney block. The former club owner lapse into a coma on July 5 and died on July 9 before a trial could be held. The trial was rescheduled for September.

The legal process finally ended on October 23, when DeForge was found guilty of throwing the May 14 game. In surprising decision, the jury acquitted McWaters and Tommy Phillips. Judge Allan H. Gwyn termed the acquittal of McWaters and Phillips "in its entirety unsatisfactory." He added "I have no doubt that he (DeForge) met in Reidsville with Weingarten and McWaters."

At the urging of the prosecuting attorney Walter Johnstone Jr., County sheriff Ernie Shore and Chief of Police John Gold, DeForge's one-year prison term was suspended. DeForge's complete cooperation with authorities was given as the reason for suspending the sentence. Judge Gwyn placed DeForge on probation for five years and urged him to "rise above what has come out of this case." DeForge replied, "I will sir."

Sheriff Ernie Shore was a former major league baseball player. Shore pitched in the major leagues between 1912 and 1920, mostly with the Boston Red Sox, and compiled a lifetime record of 65 wins against 43 losses with a earn run average of 2.47. He was best known for a role in game he played on June 23, 1917, when he relieved Red Sox pitcher Babe Ruth, who was ejected from the game for protesting a walk to the first batter. The runner was caught stealing and Shore retired the next 26 batters in a row to record a perfect game.

Fortunately for George Troutman, the DeForge affair marked the last minor league gambling scandal of the 1940's. In fact this was the last incident to occur until 1959 when a new scandal broke out, this time in the Class AA Southern Association.

24 June 1953

George M. Trautman, 73, Dead; Headed Minor League Baseball

Supervised 18 Circuits In 129 Cities-Formerly General Manager Of Detroit Tigers

Columbus, Ohio-George M. Trautman, president of minor-league baseball since 1947, died today at his home. He was 73 years old. Mr. Trautman had been in ill health for some time with a heart ailment but cancer was given as his cause of death.

He was elected unanimously as president and treasurer of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the minors, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of the late Judge, W.G. Branham.

Under Mr. Trautman's guidance, minor-league baseball reached it peak in 1949 when 59 leagues in 448 cities were in operation. Today there are only 18 leagues and 129 cities are represented.

The genial, freckled and red-haired Mr. Trautman entered the administrative field in 1933 as President of the Columbus Red Birds of the American Association. In his three years at the helm, the Birds won two pennants and two Little World Series.

From 1933 to 1945 Mr. Trautman was president of the America Association and for six years he was the minor-league association's vice president and executive committee chairman.

In 1948 he was named executive vice president and General Manager of the Detroit Baseball Club, he next year he was released from his contract with the Tigers to head the minors.

Mr. Trautman was born Jan. 11, 1890 in Bucyrus where he was captain of the high school's baseball, football, basketball and track teams. He entered Ohio State University in 1911 and won letters in football, baseball and basketball. He was graduated from the College of Agriculture, then attended Harvard University during the summers of 1914-1915.

Mr. Trautman became a teacher and coach at Fostoria High School in 1914 and during his two years there his football teams were unbeaten.

He was athletic director at Camp Sheridan, Ala. During World War I, leaving service as a captain. He was a colonel in the Army Specialist Corps in World War II.

Mr. Trautman managed the 1928 National Open golf tournament at the Scinto Country Club and the 1931 Ryder Cup matches at the same course. He managed the final tryouts for the 1932 Olympic wrestling team, and for six years was editor of The Wrestling Guide. In addition, he had been athletic director at Ohio State and convention, publicity director for the Columbus Chamber of Commerces.

Mr. Trautman's first wife, the former May Crumit, died in 1940. In 1942, he married Mrs. Jane Daley Asbury, a widow of Valdosta, Ga.

His death raises a question whether the minor-league office will continue to operate as an entity or will it be merged with the majors under the jurisdiction of Commission Ford Frick.

The majors will have kept the minors going by providing financial aide in various ways and some of the sport's leaders feel that the major leagues should control the entire baseball structure.



THE RAINS CAME TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE

Joe Trotta, left, Reidsville outfielder and Tee Frye, right, the Stoneville shortstop who plays with Winston-Salem peer anxiously at clouds over Memorial Stadium yesterday afternoon before the start of the Carolina League East-West All-Star game. Maybe they were wishing it would rain after the first inning when the East scored seven runs and went on to win 19-2.

JUN 2 9 2009

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1554 00888 1145